Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

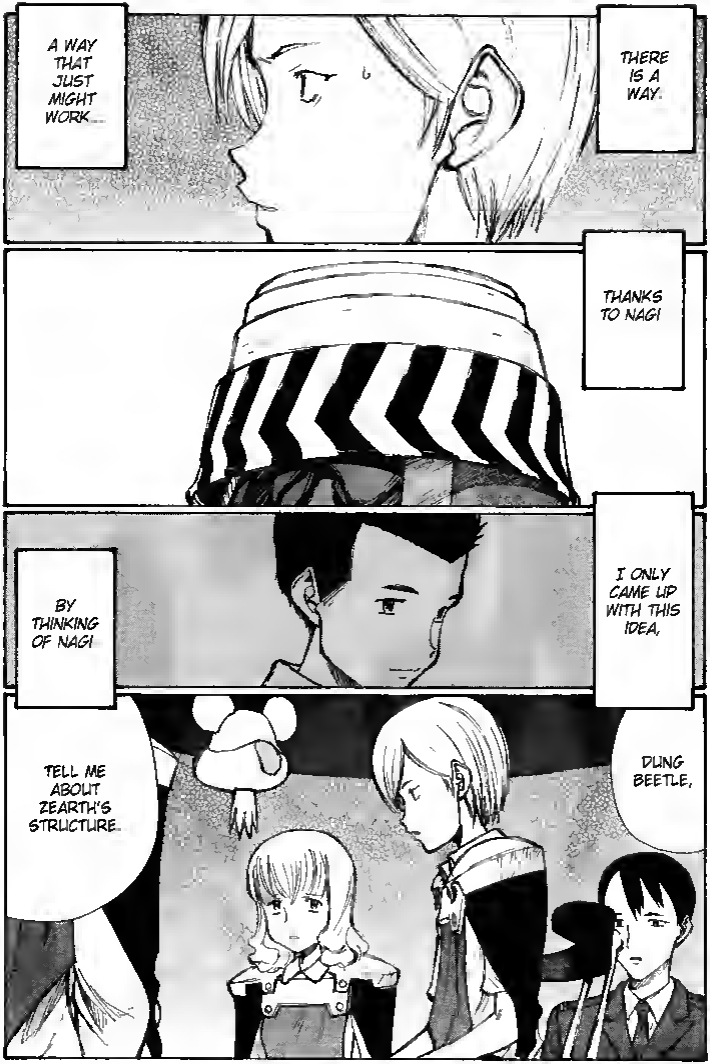
Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

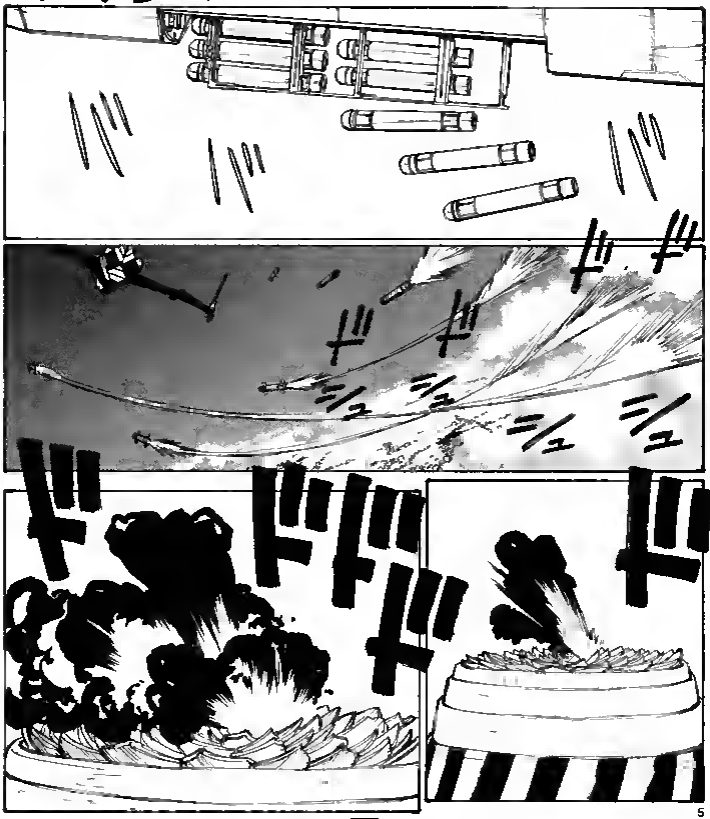
CHAPTER 24
KUNIHIKO MOJI (4)

鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏


A WAY THAT JUST MIGHT WORK...
THERE IS A WAY.
THANKS TO NAGI
I ONLY CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA,
BY THINKING OF NAGI
DUNG BEETLE,
TELL ME ABOUT ZEARTH'S STRUCTURE.

LOOK, KID,
IF YOU WANNA KNOW, I'LL JUST POP INTO YOUR HEAD
OH, ALL RIGHT
I SEE
3
SO I CAN DETACH ANY PART OF THE EXOSKELETON?
LIKE NAKARAI DID, RIGHT?
AHA
THE OLD LIZARD'S TAIL TRICK, HUH?
AND WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO AFTER THAT?
YOU CAN'T GET INTO FIRING RANGE EITHER WAY

THE ATTACK SQUADRON IS WITHIN 20 KM.
THEY'LL BEGIN THEIR ATTACK SOON.
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN SEKI!!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, I'LL HANDLE IT!!
TOO LATE.



IT WOULDN'T WORK
I TOLD YOU,

DAMNIT!!
SHIT!!
IT DIDN'T WORK, THEN!!
THE HELLRAISER SQUAD IS WIPED OUT?!

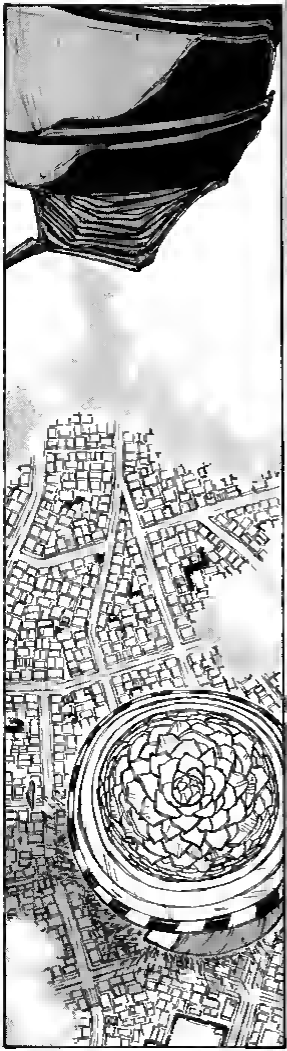
I'LL DO IT.
IT'S OK, CAPTAIN.
I AM GOING TO DETACH OUR COCKPIT,
FROM THE MAIN BODY.
WHA...

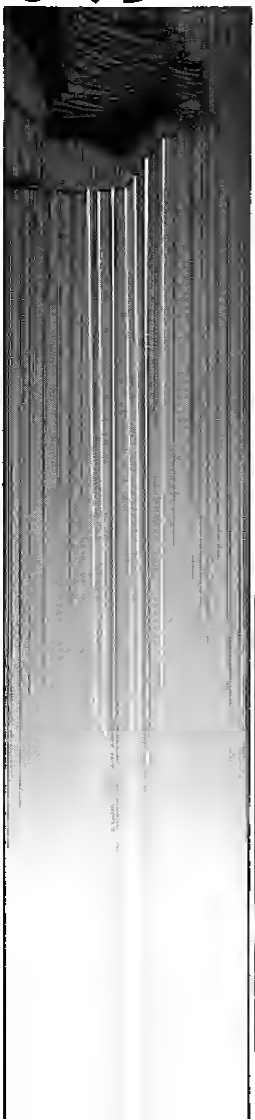
AND HOW IS *THAT* GOING TO *HELP* US?!

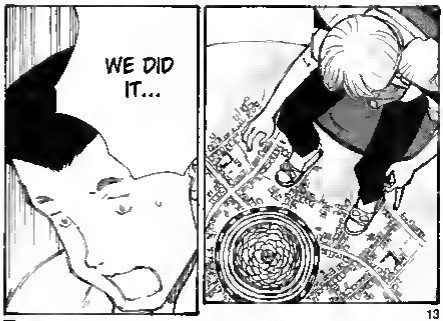
WE'RE IN A BAD ENOUGH SPOT
AS IT IS
DON'T WORRY.
IT'LL GIVE US A SHORT WINDOW TO VICTORY.
I'LL DO IT.

ゴ
バキバキ
ゴ
キャ

HUH?!






WE DID IT...

WE'RE ABOVE IT!!

GO!!

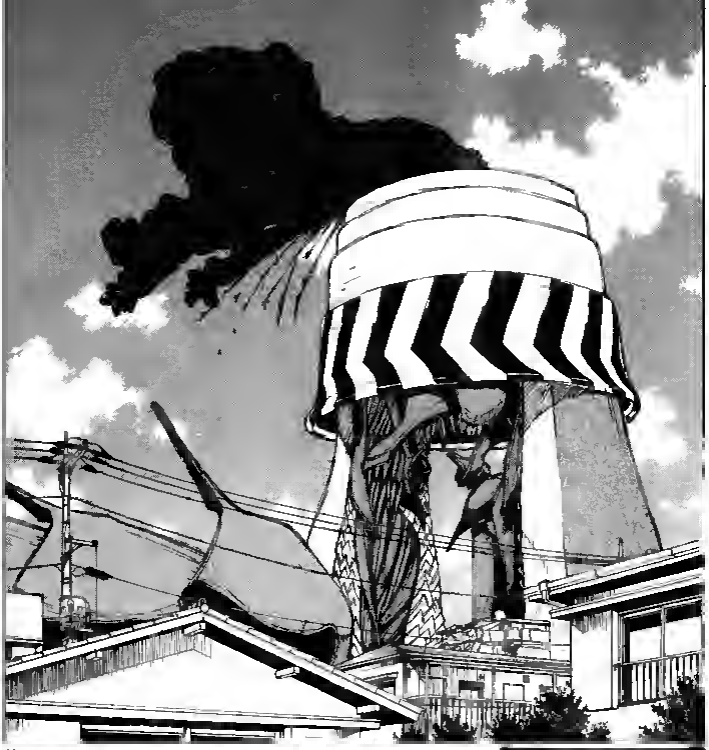
ドッ
オッ
AAAH!!
DID IT WORK?!

YOU CAME UP A BIT SHORT
IT LOOKS LIKE
NO,
15
WE CAN'T HIT IT FROM HERE!!
ギ"ン"!
DID WE LOSE?!
ミュア

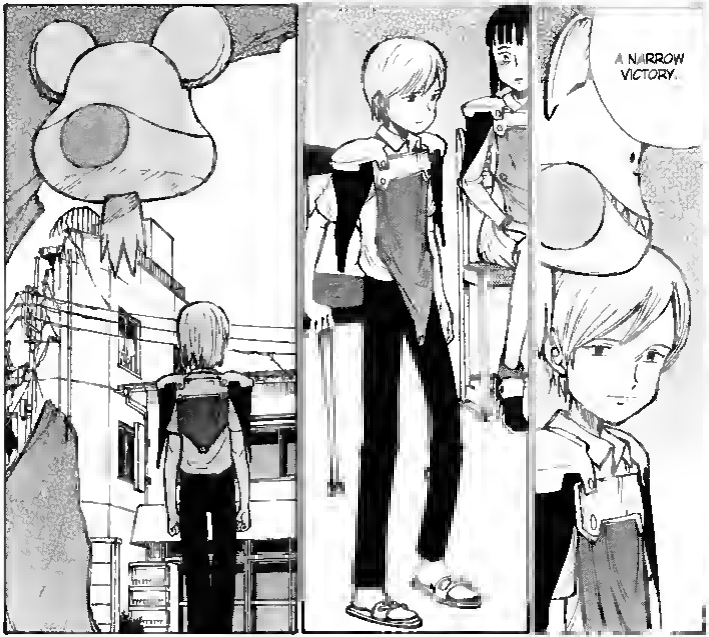
THE ATTACK SQUADRON!!
YEOW!!
AAAHH!!

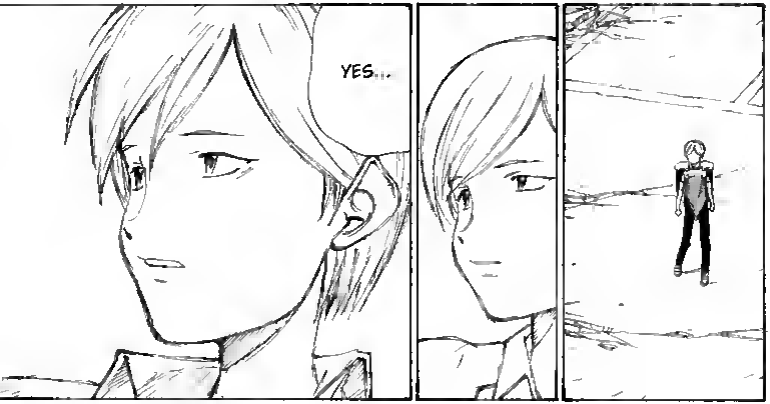
HUH?!
AAHHH!!

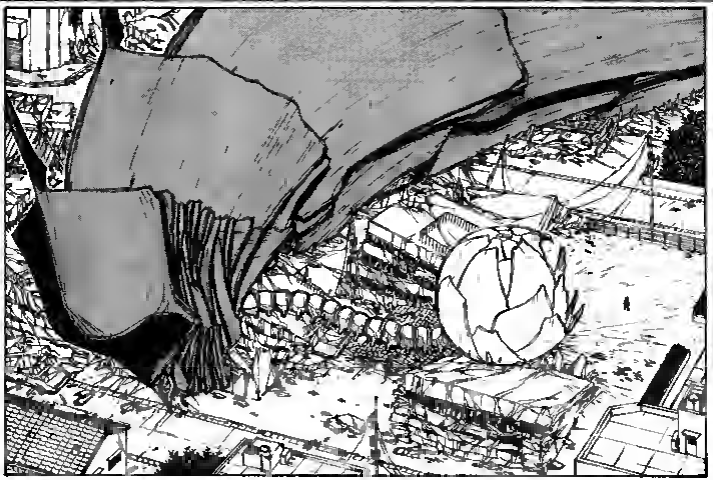
ゴォ
オ
オ
19
18

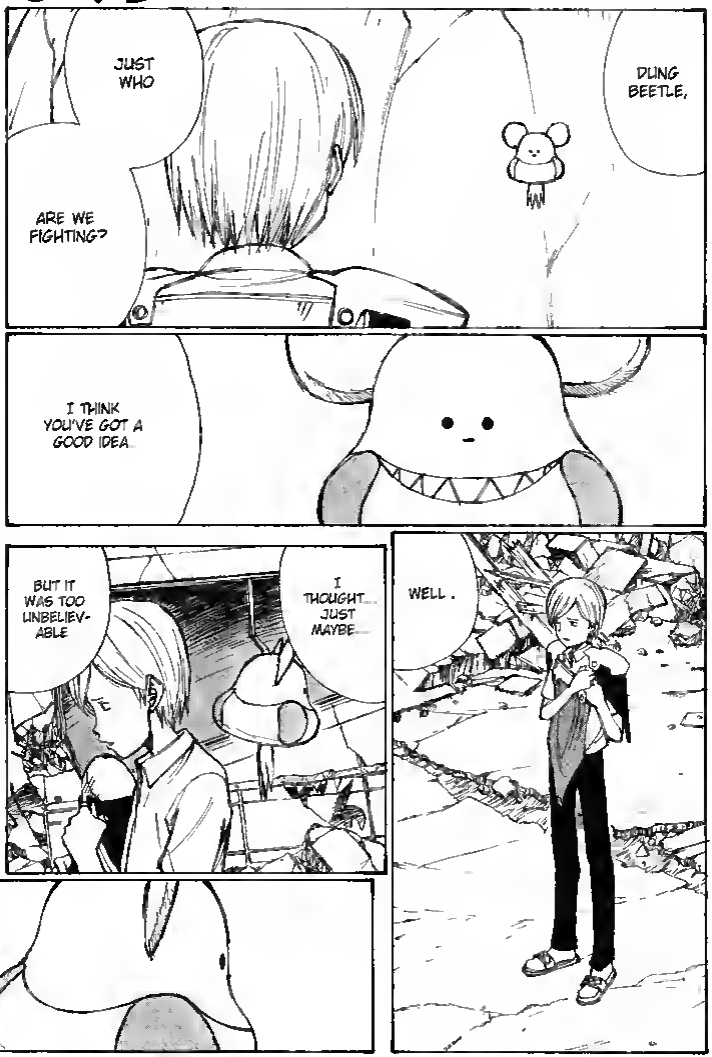


IT'S THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF ALL ONBOARD FIREPOWER.
A. . A SUICIDE ATTACK...?


A NARROW VICTORY.


YES...

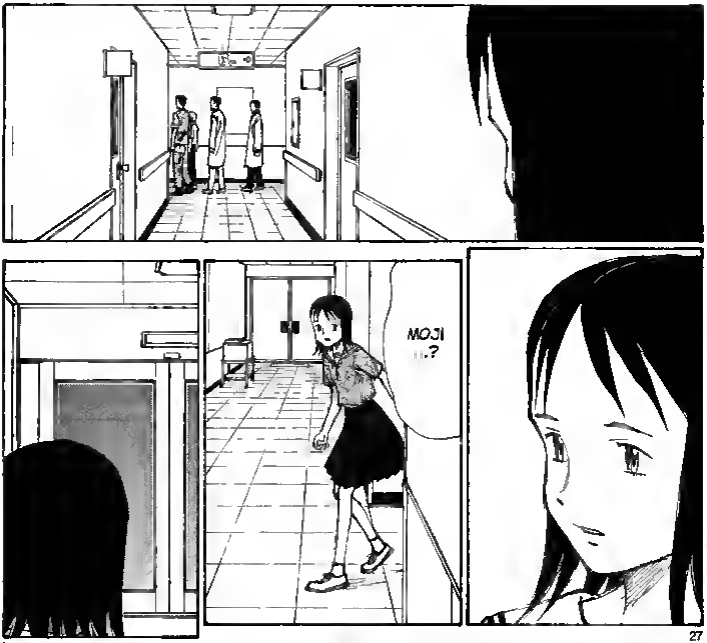


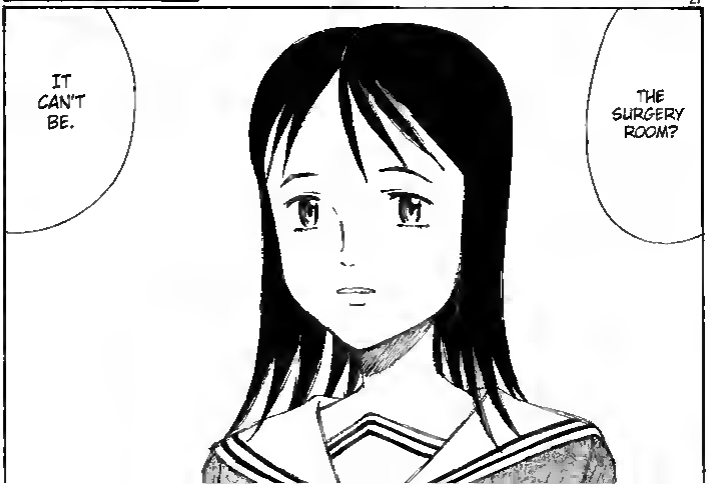

JUST WHO ARE WE FIGHTING?
DUNG BEETLE.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA.
BUT IT WAS TOO UNBELIEV-ABLE
I THOUGHT... JUST MAYBE...
WELL.

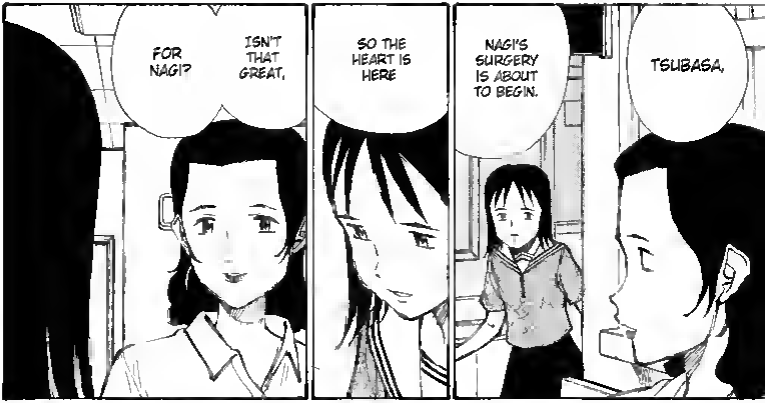
EVERYONE.
THANK YOU,
WE WOULD HAVE LOST.
IF THEY HADN'T HELPED US,
PLEASE THANK THE FAMILIES OF THE PILOTS WHO FOUGHT FOR US,
FOR ME.
CAPTAIN SEKI, CAPTAIN TANAKA,

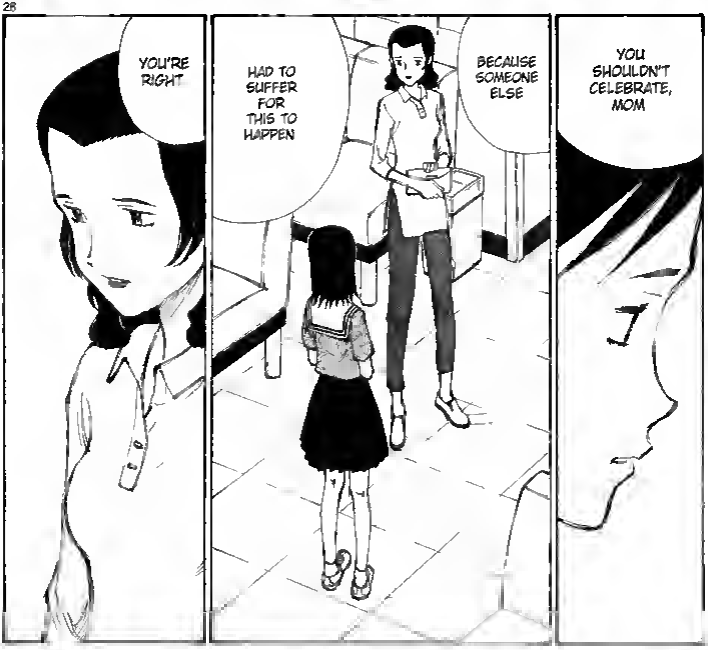
TAKE ME TO THE HOSPITAL.
ALL RIGHT, DUNG BEETLE.

THE DONOR
HAS ARRIVED!!
I'M
ALL READY
MAKE THE PREPA-RATIONS FOR THE EXTRACTION
WE'RE ALREADY THERE
ALL RIGHT LET'S GO TO THE SURGERY ROOM THEN
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL COLLAPSE
PLEASE BE READY


MOJI ..?


IT CAN'T BE.
THE SURGERY ROOM?


TSUBASA,
NAGI'S SURGERY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
SO THE HEART IS HERE
ISN'T THAT GREAT, FOR NAGI?


YOU SHOULDN'T CELEBRATE, MOM
BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE
HAD TO SUFFER FOR THIS TO HAPPEN
YOU'RE RIGHT

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BLACK MONSTER I HOPE OUR HOUSE IS ALL RIGHT
THE TIME WILL COME WHEN NAGI IS TORTURED BY THAT FACT...
NAGI,
LET'S LIVE OUR LIVES TO THE FULLEST
FOR YOUR DONOR'S SAKE...

CHAPTER 24/END

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Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

CHAPTER 25
MAKI ANO (1)

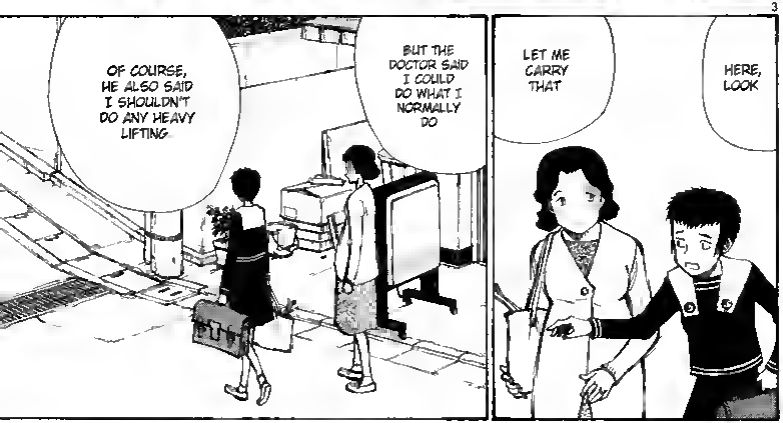
WHAT IS A TRUE FAMILY...?

IT'S ALL SHE COULD THINK OF...

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

MOM.
WELCOME BACK, MAKI.
YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T BE WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE.

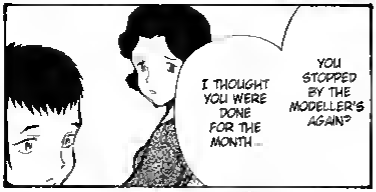
MOM,
YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN ERRANDS, I CAN DO THOSE ONCE I GET HOME

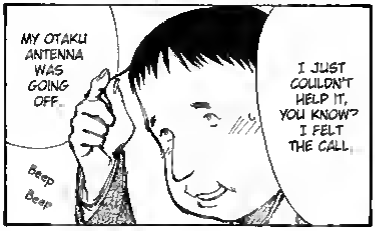

OF COURSE, HE ALSO SAID I SHOULDN'T DO ANY HEAVY LIFTING
BUT THE DOCTOR SAID I COULD DO WHAT I NORMALLY DO
LET ME CARRY THAT
HERE, LOOK

YES, DEAR.
UNDER-STAND?
BUT YOUR IDEA OF "NORMAL" IS TOO HARD ON YOURSELF.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH
YOU'RE AT A VERY LATE AGE FOR CHILD-BEARING
HE'S GOING TO BE MY LITTLE BROTHER

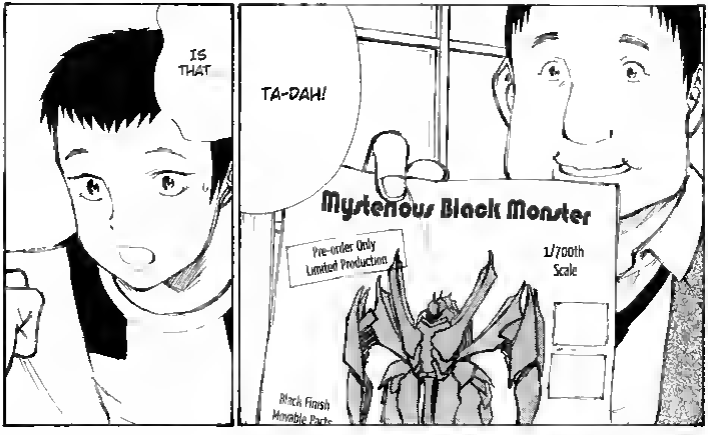
WHAT TIME IS DAD GETTING HOME TONIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT THE ANIME HE'S SO EXCITED ABOUT STARTS AT 6:30,
SO HE'LL PROBABLY BE HOME BY THEN
WHAT A SILLY GOOF
BUT HE CAN WATCH IT WHENEVER HE WANTS FROM THE DELIVERY SERVICE
HE WON'T DO THAT
HE ALWAYS SAYS THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE AIR, OR THE SMELL WHEN YOU DON'T WATCH IT IN REALTIME
YOU KNOW WHAT HE MEANS?
NOT A BIT.

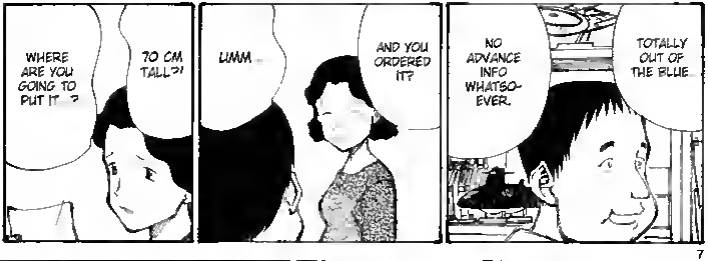
AND YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I FOUND
HEH, I STOPPED AT "MODEL A" ON THE WAY,

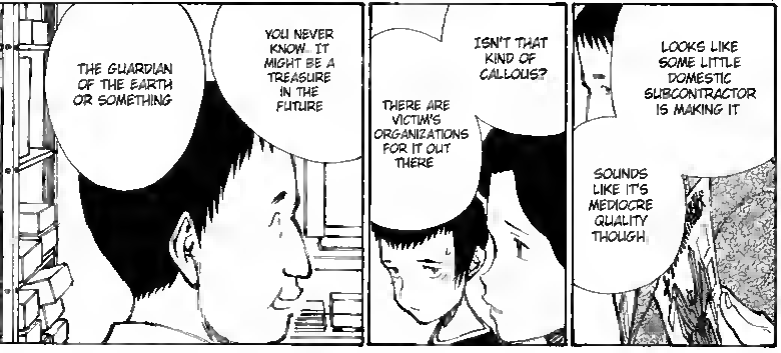

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE FOR THE MONTH...
YOU STOPPED BY THE MODELLER'S AGAIN?


MY OTAKU ANTENNA WAS GOING OFF.
Beep Beep
I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT, YOU KNOW? I FELT THE CALL.

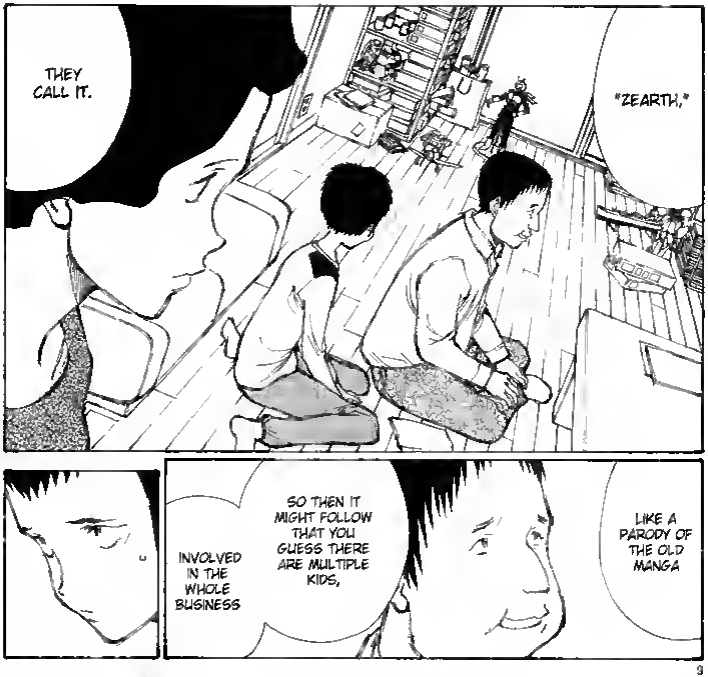
WELCOME BACK, DAD.
PHEW, HOME JUST IN TIME.

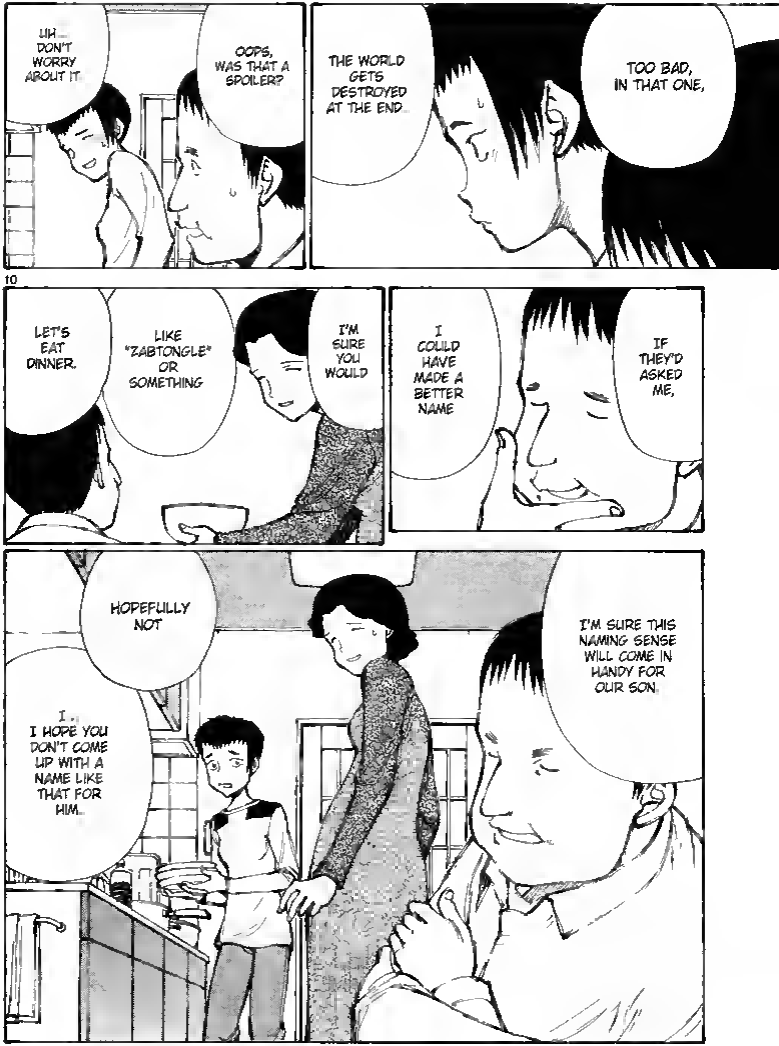

IS THAT...
TA-DAH!
Mysterious Black Monster
Pre-order Only
Limited Production
1/700th Scale
Black Finish
Movable Parts

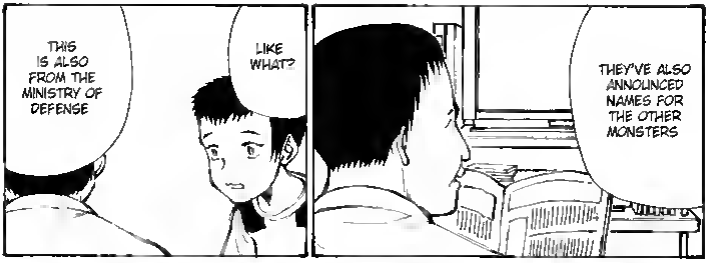

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO PUT IT...?
70 CM TALL?!
UMM...
AND YOU ORDERED IT?
NO ADVANCE INFO WHATSO-EVER.
TOTALLY OUT OF THE BLUE.

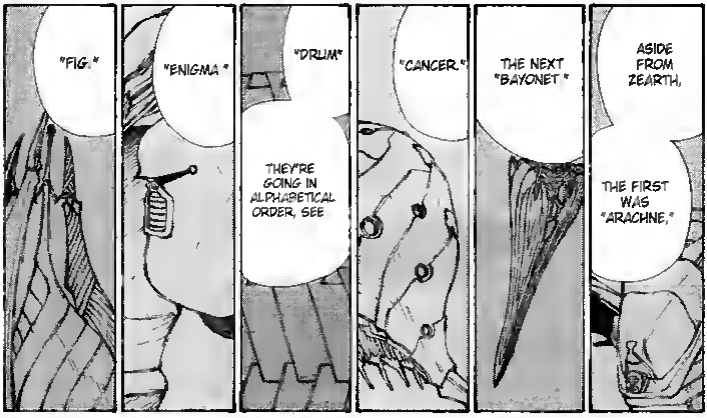

THE GUARDIAN OF THE EARTH OR SOMETHING
YOU NEVER KNOW. IT MIGHT BE A TREASURE IN THE FUTURE
ISN'T THAT KIND OF CALLOUS?
THERE ARE VICTIM'S ORGANIZATIONS FOR IT OUT THERE
LOOKS LIKE SOME LITTLE DOMESTIC SUBCONTRACTOR IS MAKING IT
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S MEDIOCRE QUALITY THOUGH.

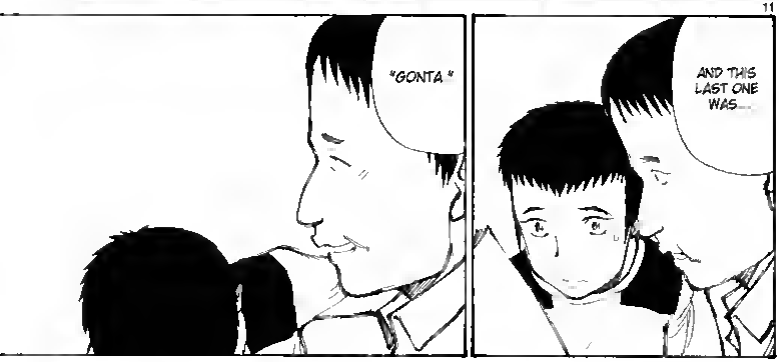
HAS PEOPLE RIDING IN IT.
APPARENTLY THAT MONSTER
AHH, THAT'S A NEW SPECIAL ISSUE.
WHAT'S THIS MAGAZINE?
WH...
WHICH IS?
BUT THE ARTICLE GUESSES THEY MIGHT BE CHILDREN
OF COURSE, THE PHOTOS ARE JUST BLURRY LONG-DISTANCE SHOTS,
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN IT'S NOT A MONSTER,
BUT A ROBOT?
THEY'VE ANNOUNCED THE MINISTRY'S CODENAME FOR IT.
I BET THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT


"ZEARTH,"
THEY CALL IT.
LIKE A PARODY OF THE OLD MANGA
SO THEN IT MIGHT FOLLOW THAT YOU GUESS THERE ARE MULTIPLE KIDS,
INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE BUSINESS
HAVE YOU READ THAT ONE, MAKI?
HUH? YEAH I MEAN NO NOT YET...
OH
I GUESS I THOUGHT YOU HAD.
I... I STOPPED PARTWAY.


UH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OOPS, WAS THAT A SPOILER?
THE WORLD GETS DESTROYED AT THE END...
TOO BAD, IN THAT ONE,
10
LET'S EAT DINNER.
LIKE "ZABTONGLE" OR SOMETHING
I'M SURE YOU WOULD
I COULD HAVE MADE A BETTER NAME
IF THEY'D ASKED ME,
HOPEFULLY NOT
I... I HOPE YOU DON'T COME UP WITH A NAME LIKE THAT FOR HIM...
I'M SURE THIS NAMING SENSE WILL COME IN HANDY FOR OUR SON.

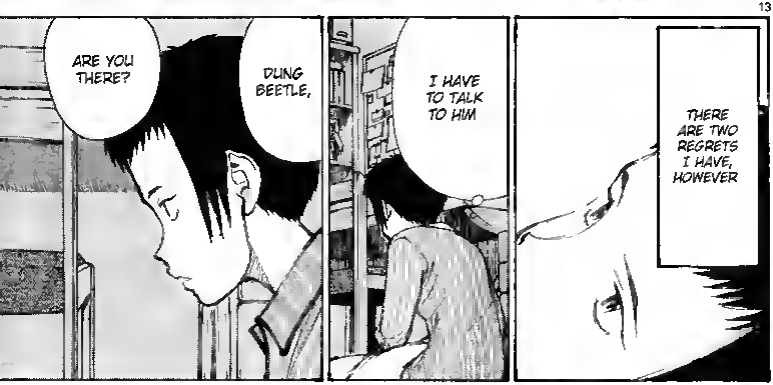

THIS IS ALSO FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
LIKE WHAT?
THEY'VE ALSO ANNOUNCED NAMES FOR THE OTHER MONSTERS


"FIG."
"ENIGMA"
"DRUM"
THEY'RE GOING IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, SEE
"CANCER."
THE NEXT "BAYONET."
ASIDE FROM ZEARTH,
THE FIRST WAS "ARACHNE,"

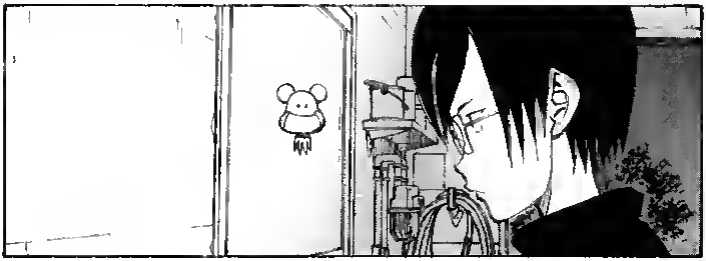

"GONTA."
AND THIS LAST ONE WAS...

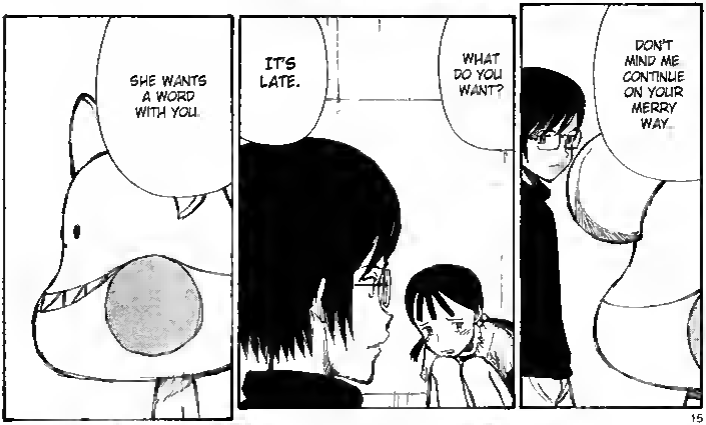
THE FINGERS I HELD THE NEEDLE WITH ARE STILL A LITTLE SORE...
THAT MEANS
I'M STILL ALIVE...
BUT SOON,
I WILL BE DEAD...

AND ALSO,
FIRST OF ALL IS THE FACT THAT IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL REAL
I UNDERSTAND WHY.
AND YET I'M SO CALM ABOUT IT
STILL, I THINK IT'S A SUITABLE WORD TO USE HERE.
ACTUALLY MENTIONING "FATE" IS KIND OF EMBARRASSING, THOUGH
I SENSE THE FATE OF IT ALL

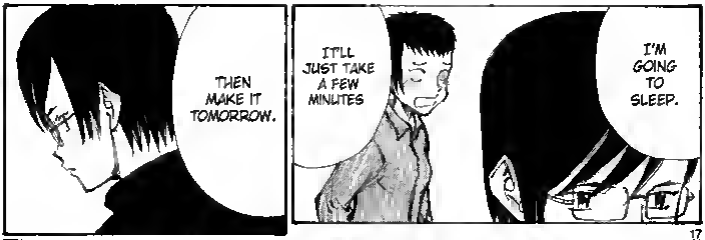

ARE YOU THERE?
DUNG BEETLE,
I HAVE TO TALK TO HIM
THERE ARE TWO REGRETS I HAVE, HOWEVER

I'M SORRY!!
AAH!
I'M SORRY!!
AAAH...
WAAH...



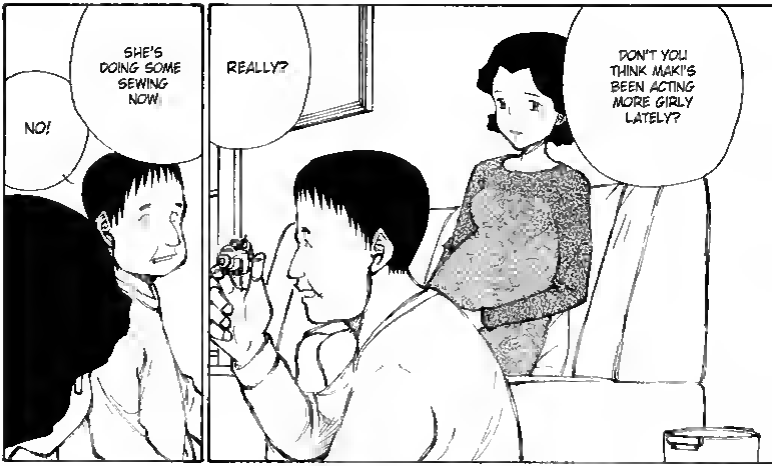

DON'T MIND ME CONTINUE ON YOUR MERRY WAY...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S LATE.
SHE WANTS A WORD WITH YOU.

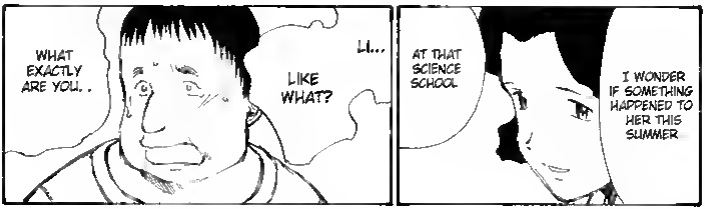
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KANA!!
Y-YEAH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!
USHIRO!!
SL...
IT'S JUST MY DAILY HABIT BEFORE BED
IT HELPS ME SLEEP
THEN WHY...
NOTHING
WHAT THE HELL DID SHE DO TO YOU?!
I TOLD YOU I HAD SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!!
YOU WAIT JUST A SECOND!!
I'M OFF TO BED
GOOD-NIGHT

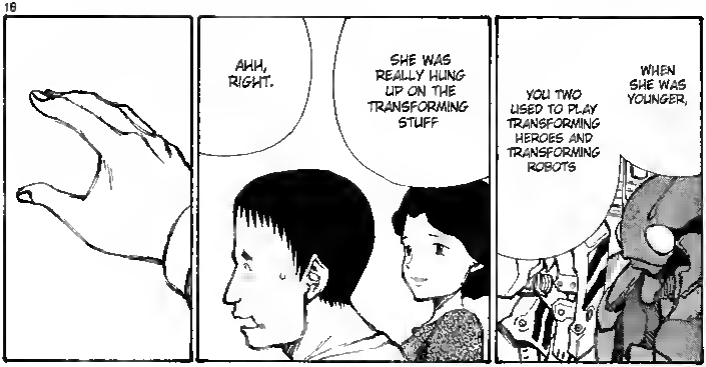

I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
IT'LL JUST TAKE A FEW MINUTES
THEN MAKE IT TOMORROW.

LOOK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I *HAVE* A TOMORROW.
JUST DO ME THIS FAVOR.

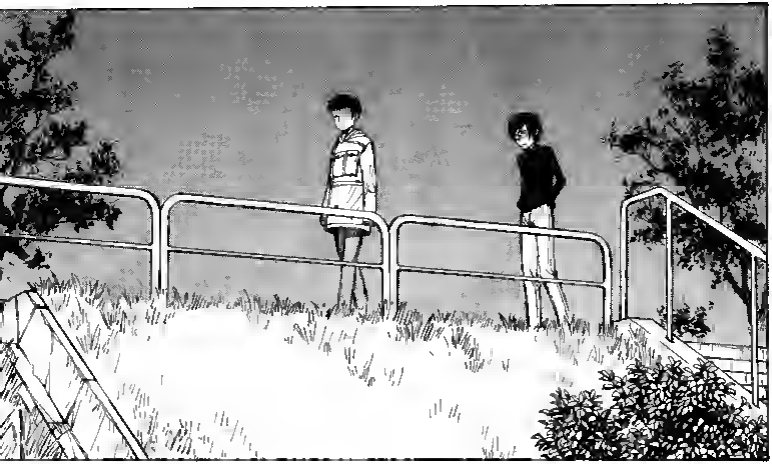
I'M GOING TO BORROW YOUR STUPID BROTHER FOR A BIT, KANA.


SHE'S DOING SOME SEWING NOW.
NO!
REALLY?
DON'T YOU THINK MAKI'S BEEN ACTING MORE GIRLY LATELY?


WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU. .
LIKE WHAT?
LI...
AT THAT SCIENCE SCHOOL
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER THIS SUMMER


AHH, RIGHT.
SHE WAS REALLY HUNG UP ON THE TRANSFORMING STUFF
YOU TWO USED TO PLAY TRANSFORMING HEROES AND TRANSFORMING ROBOTS
WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER,

WHEN THIS LITTLE GUY IS BORN,
IT'LL BE A LOT EASIER FOR MAKI.



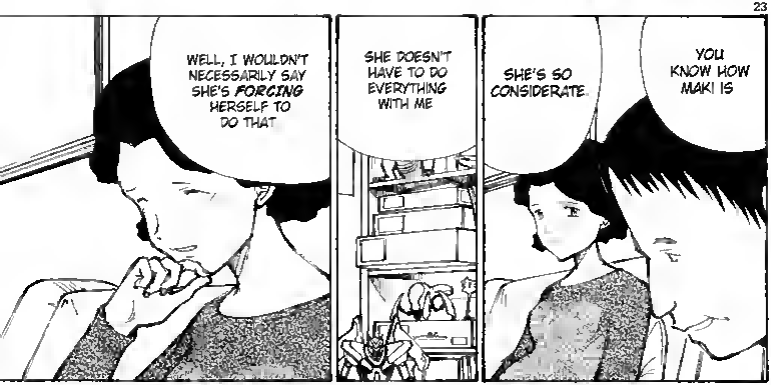
WHOA,
WHAT'S THAT?
20
SO,
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIVED NEAR IT
THE TALLEST IN THE WORLD, RIGHT? 500 METERS
UH OHH!
CHUTENRO TOWER
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT?

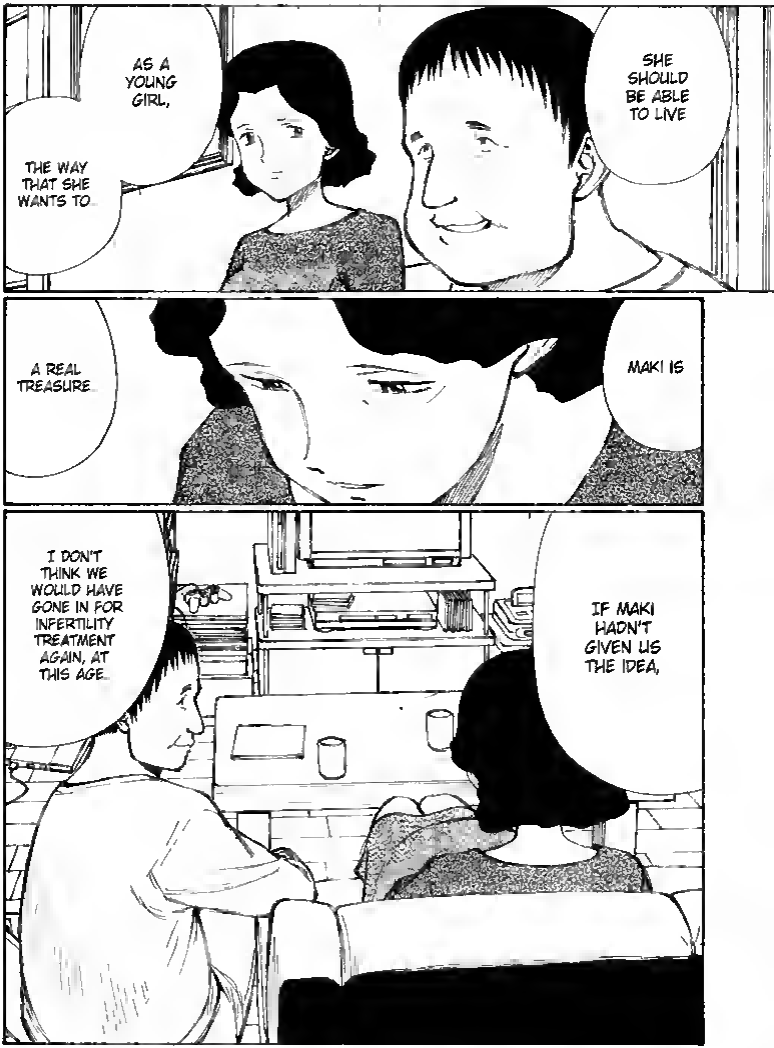
WE DON'T TALK.
I'M NOT SURE
DUNNO
WHAT'S HE LIKE?
YOU CAME HERE TO ASK THAT?
WHAT'S YOUR DAD LIKE?
UH... SORRY.
WHAT?!
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER.
WHAT'S HIS JOB?
UMM... OH...

I BET THAT'S NOT TRUE
AS FAR AS HE CARES
I'M JUST ANOTHER STUDENT.

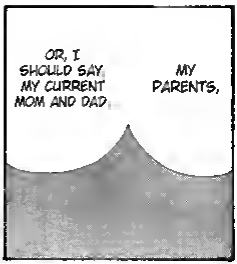
C'MON, YOU CAN TELL ME, RIGHT?!
AND YOUR MOM?
WHEN YOU WERE THREE?
SHE DIED
REMEMBER HER AT ALL.
I DON'T REALLY
SIGH
WELL, AT LEAST YOU REMEMBER HER
OH.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW...
THAT SHE WAS THERE
I DO REMEMBER

MY MOM AND DAD
AREN'T MY REAL PARENTS.

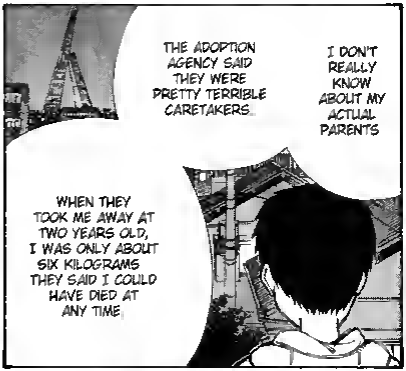

YOU KNOW HOW MAKI IS
SHE'S SO CONSIDERATE.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WITH ME
WELL, I WOULDN'T NECESSARILY SAY SHE'S *FORCING* HERSELF TO DO THAT.


AS A YOUNG GIRL,
THE WAY THAT SHE WANTS TO...
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE
A REAL TREASURE...
MAKI IS
I DON'T THINK WE WOULD HAVE GONE IN FOR INFERTILITY TREATMENT AGAIN, AT THIS AGE...
IF MAKI HADN'T GIVEN US THE IDEA,

THEY TRIED INFERTILITY TREATMENT, BUT IT NEVER QUITE WORKED.
THEY WERE NEVER ABLE TO HAVE KIDS.


OR, I SHOULD SAY, MY CURRENT MOM AND DAD.
MY PARENTS,

I WAS ADOPTED AT THE AGE OF THREE


THE ADOPTION AGENCY SAID THEY WERE PRETTY TERRIBLE CARETAKERS.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT MY ACTUAL PARENTS
WHEN THEY TOOK ME AWAY AT TWO YEARS OLD, I WAS ONLY ABOUT SIX KILOGRAMS THEY SAID I COULD HAVE DIED AT ANY TIME.

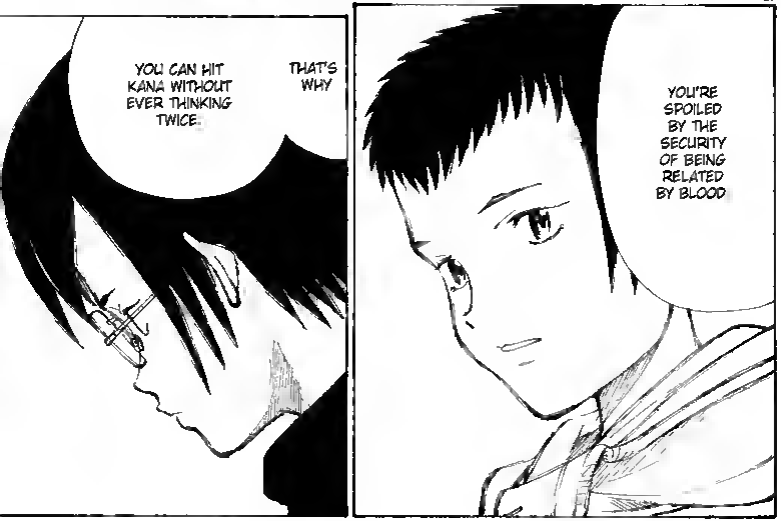
I DID DIE, ONCE.
MAYBE BACK THEN,

SO I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT

FOR BEING GIVEN LIFE?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE?
FOR ALLOWING ME TO LIVE THIS LONG.
RIGHT NOW, I'M GRATEFUL TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER
FOR MY DAD TO HIT ME?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH COURAGE IT TAKES
THEY DON'T REALLY SEEM TO CARE MUCH ABOUT IT, ON THE SURFACE,
BUT DOWN INSIDE, I THINK THEY DO THINK A LOT ABOUT IT
MOM AND DAD TREAT ME LIKE THEIR OWN CHILD.

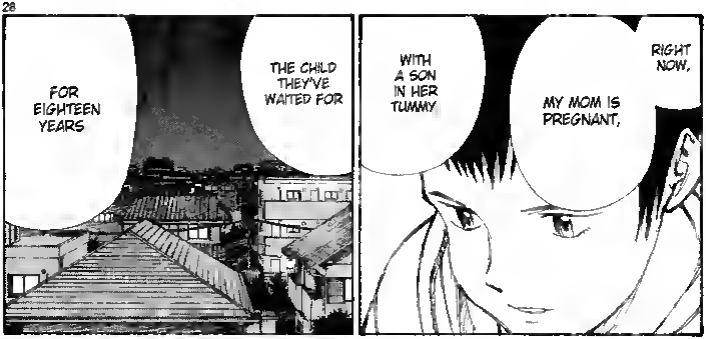
PLUS,
WHAT'S YOUR DAD DOING?
SHEESH
I'VE NEVER
BEEN HIT BEFORE.

SIGH.
YOU DON'T NEED COURAGE TO HIT SOMEONE.


YOU CAN HIT KANA WITHOUT EVER THINKING TWICE.
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE SPOILED BY THE SECURITY OF BEING RELATED BY BLOOD

WHO BLESSED US WITH THIS CHILD
I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS MAKI

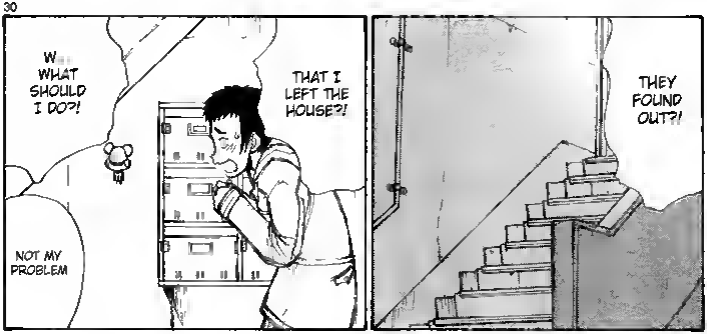
WE'LL HAVE A NEW FAMILY OF FOUR
BECAUSE OF MAKI,


FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS
THE CHILD THEY'VE WAITED FOR
WITH A SON IN HER TUMMY
MY MOM IS PREGNANT,
RIGHT NOW,

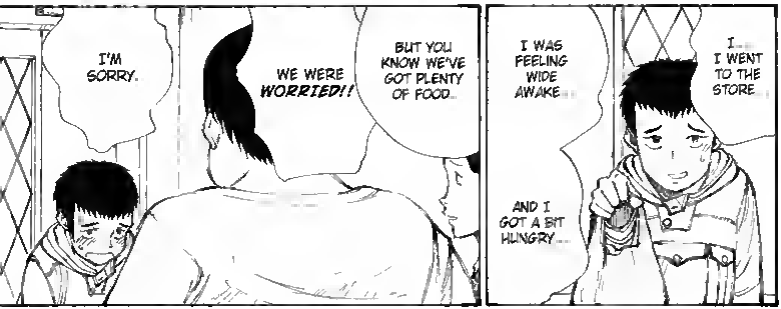
I CAN FIGHT,
AND DIE.
I'M WILLING TO FIGHT,
FOR THEIR NEW FAMILY
WHEN I DISAPPEAR,
A NEW CHILD WILL COME FORTH FOR THEM

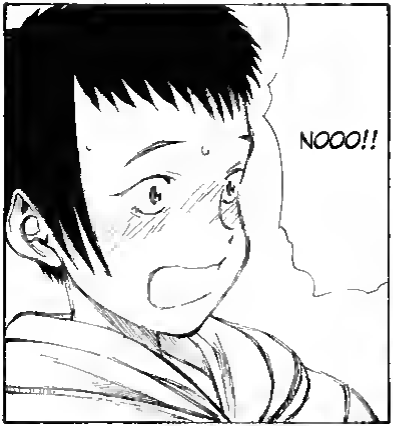
IT MEANS THE SACRIFICES EVERYONE'S MADE WILL BE FOR NOTHING
BUT IF YOU DON'T FIGHT AS WELL, AFTER THAT,

YOU HAVE TO KEEP KANA SAFE,
AND FIGHT FOR HER.


W... WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
THAT I LEFT THE HOUSE?!
NOT MY PROBLEM
THEY FOUND OUT?!

WHAT WERE YOU *DOING?!* OUT THIS LATE!!
AND ALL BY *YOURSELF!!*
YIKES...


I'M SORRY.
WE WERE *WORRIED!!*
BUT YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF FOOD...
I WAS FEELING WIDE AWAKE...
AND I GOT A BIT HUNGRY...
I... I WENT TO THE STORE...



CHAPTER 25/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

CHAPTER 26
MAKI ANO (2)

A NEW LIFE IS SOON TO BE BORN...
THIS GIRL WILL FIGHT TO PROTECT IT!

鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏

I MADE A DECISION
AFTER MOJI'S BATTLE WAS OVER,
I WOULD NOT BLAME OTHERS
I WOULD NOT SPEND MY TIME CRYING
I WOULD NOT SELF-DESTRUCT
2
THE ANSWER IS CLEAR.
BUT,
OF COURSE, I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
IN THIS SITUATION WHERE I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO ME,
I WOULD NEVER WISH FOR THAT.
MOJI IS THE EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW.

I WILL LIVE TO THE FULLEST
SO UNTIL IT'S TIME,
THE PILOT NEEDS TO GO SOMEWHERE REMOTE A TINY ISLAND, PERHAPS
SO, IF WE DON'T WANT MASSIVE DAMAGES IN TOWN,
THE FIGHT STARTS WHEREVER THE PILOT IS.
WE TALKED ABOUT THE PLACE OF BATTLE
THEN MY DECISION IS MADE
AND IF IT'S GOING TO BE THE LAST MEMORIES OF THE PILOT'S LIFE,
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE BATTLE WILL BEGIN,

NEITHER MR. SASAMI, MR. TATE,
CAPTAIN SEKI OR CAPTAIN TANAKA
WERE AGAINST MY DECISION.
WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, WE WILL MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO A SAFE LOCATION
THAT IS THE PLAN.
I WANT TO LIVE NORMALLY.

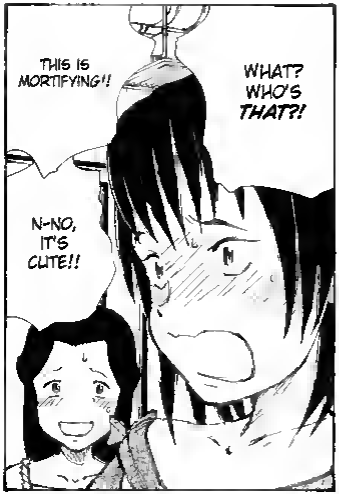
AND THERE'S ONE MORE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.
THE ZEARTH COCKPIT WAS SHAPED THE SAME AS THE ENEMY VITAL AREAS
SO WHAT'S INSIDE THOSE ENEMY SPHERES?
OR WHO?
I DOUBT DUNG BEETLE WOULD GIVE US ANY REASONABLE ANSWERS
I THINK EVERYONE WAS TOO SCARED TO CONTINUE.
BUT WE NEVER FULLY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE.
SCARED TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

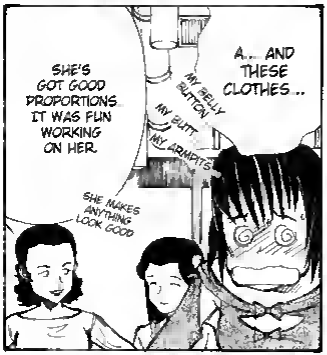
I WONDER IF WE REALLY ARE
SAVING THE WORLD.
6
I SUPPOSE IT MUST BE A BOYFRIEND,
AFTER ALL.
WHAT?!
W-W-W-WA-WA-WAIT.. WAIT..
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, SHE'S BEEN GOING OUT A LOT RECENTLY..
ガ
ミャ
ン

KOMO
OH, JUST KOMODA
W-WHO WOULD THAT BE?
F... "FRIEND"?!
SHE'S GOING OUT WITH A FRIEND HER NEXT DAY OFF, TOO
IT'S A DOUBLE DATE
D... DO I NEED TO BE?
ARE YOU RELIEVED?
JUST KIDDING.
GIVE ME A BREAK!
IT COULD BE TRUE, THOUGH
NOW YOU'RE JUST TAUNTING ME BECAUSE I BOUGHT THESE MODELS
.....

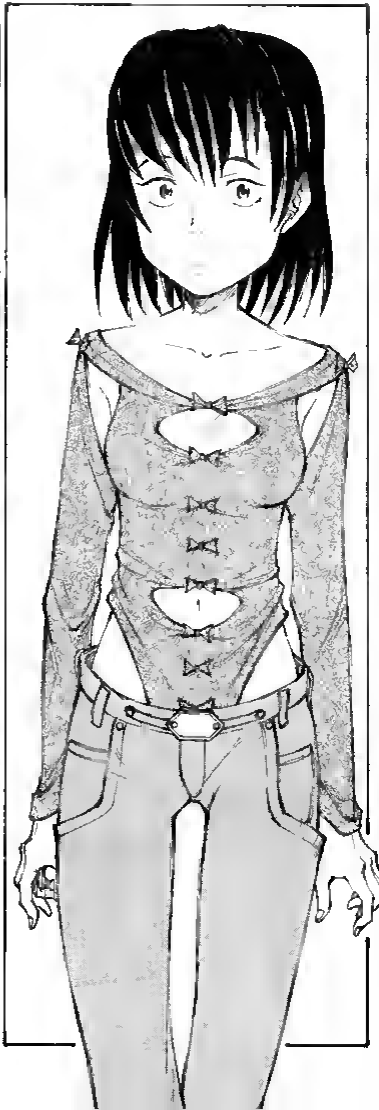
I'D LIKE TO DRESS UP LIKE A GIRL
I WAS THINKING,
IT'S ALMOST ALL MY MOTHER'S CHOICES
I DON'T PICK OUT MY OWN CLOTHES
WE LIVE IN TOTALLY DIFFERENT ENVIROMENTS
ALL I SEE IS ROBOTS AND HERO SUITS
TRUST ME IT'LL WORK.
AHAHAHA, BUT I DIDN'T LAST LONG AT PIANO LESSONS,
I THINK YOU'RE GIRLY ENOUGH AS IT IS
UNLIKE YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T FOLLOW MY LEAD
BASED ON YOUR STYLE.

YEAH.
IT WAS LONG UNTIL ABOUT 4TH GRADE, REMEMBER?
MAYBE I'D BE A BIT MORE FEMININE IF I'D LET MY HAIR GROW OUT
HUH?
WANT TO MAKE IT LONG AGAIN?
DON'T WORRY.
I-I'VE NEVER BEEN IN ONE OF THOSE BEFORE
B... BEAUTY SALON?
THERE'S A BEAUTY SALON MY MOTHER GOES TO.


THIS IS MORTIFYING!!
WHAT? WHO'S THAT?!
N-NO, IT'S CUTE!!


A... AND THESE CLOTHES ..
MY BELLY BUTTON
MY BUTT
MY ARMPITS
SHE'S GOT GOOD PROPORTIONS IT WAS FUN WORKING ON HER.
SHE MAKES ANYTHING LOOK GOOD

GO AHEAD AND TAKE A WALK WITH THAT ON
GRIN
S... SO PEOPLE CAN LAUGH AT ME?!

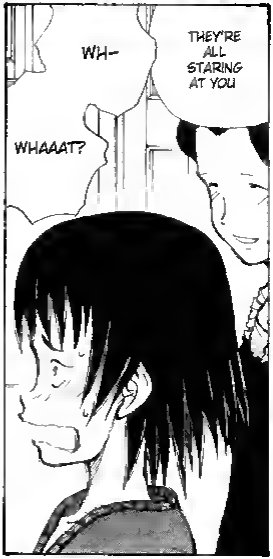


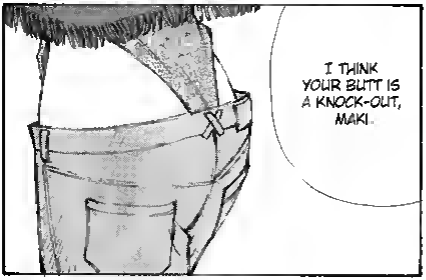
OH CRAP!
BOYS FROM OUR CLASS!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST WALK

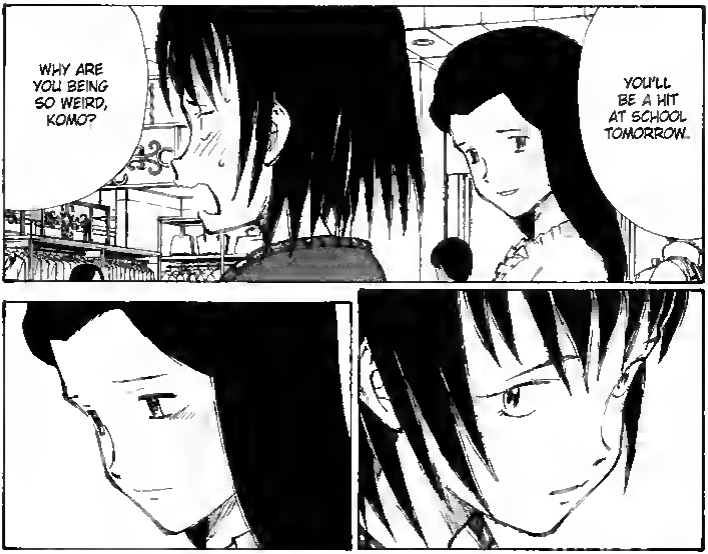
MAKI,
YOU'RE WALKING VERY STIFF.

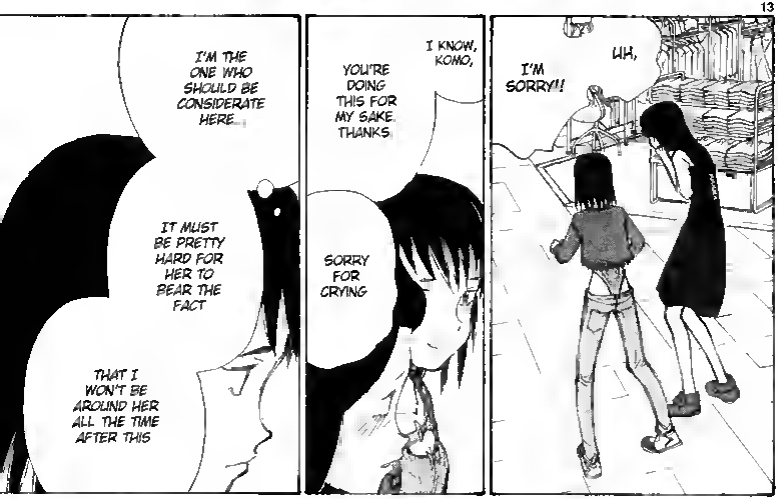
I-I CAN'T HELP IT.
MY EARS ARE KIND OF TICKLISH.
AND IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT ME...

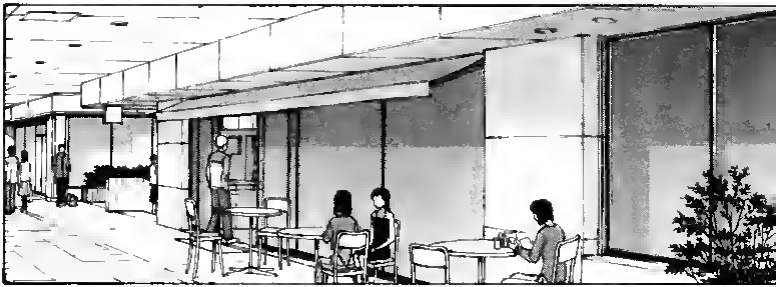
D... DO THEY KNOW IT'S ME?
OH NO, OH NO, OH NO!


WH-
THEY'RE ALL STARING AT YOU
WHAAAT?

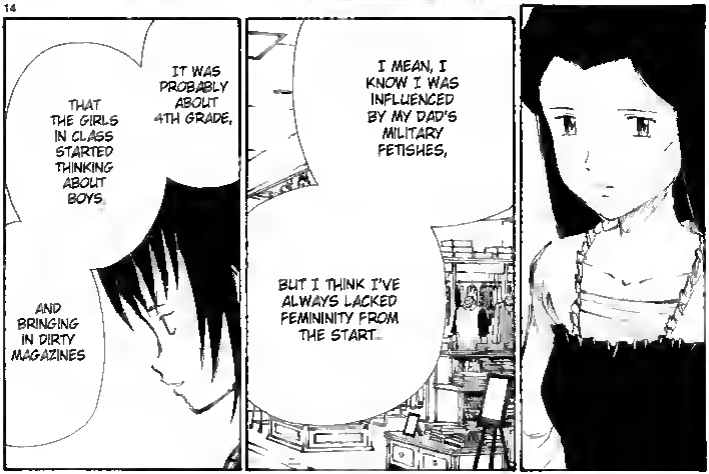

I THINK YOUR BUTT IS A KNOCK-OUT, MAKI.

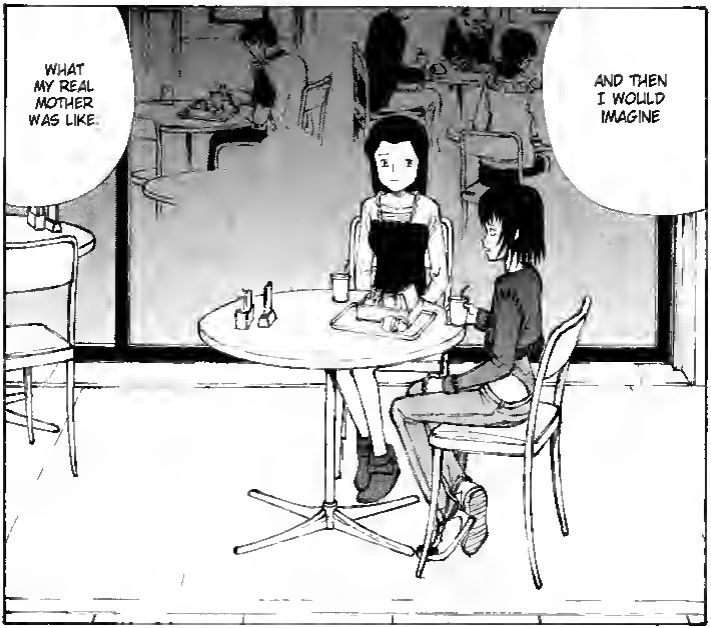

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO WEIRD, KOMO?
YOU'LL BE A HIT AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.

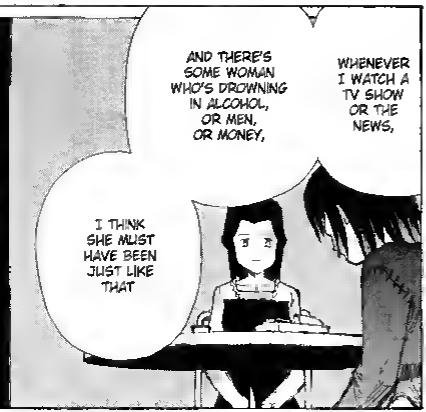

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CONSIDERATE HERE...
IT MUST BE PRETTY HARD FOR HER TO BEAR THE FACT
THAT I WON'T BE AROUND HER ALL THE TIME AFTER THIS
I KNOW, KOMO,
YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR MY SAKE. THANKS.
SORRY FOR CRYING
UH,
I'M SORRY!!



I DIDN'T WANT TO BE A GIRL
YOU KNOW,

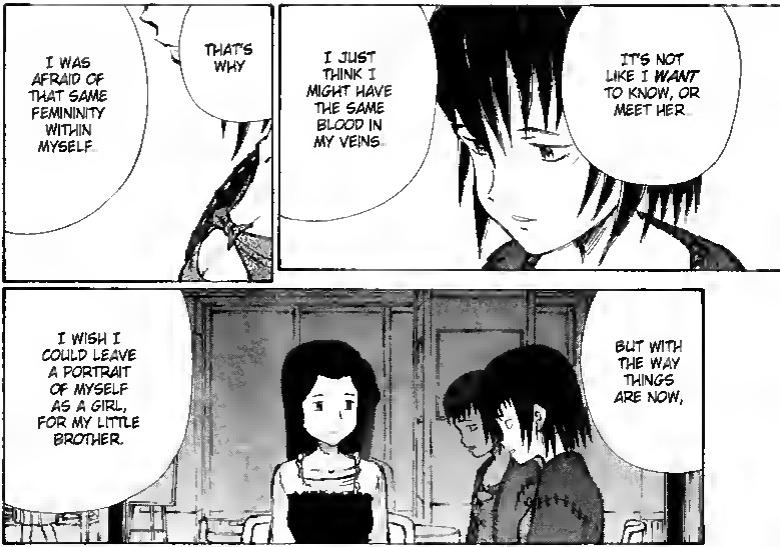

IT WAS PROBABLY ABOUT 4TH GRADE,
THAT THE GIRLS IN CLASS STARTED THINKING ABOUT BOYS
AND BRINGING IN DIRTY MAGAZINES
I MEAN, I KNOW I WAS INFLUENCED BY MY DAD'S MILITARY FETISHES,
BUT I THINK I'VE ALWAYS LACKED FEMININITY FROM THE START...

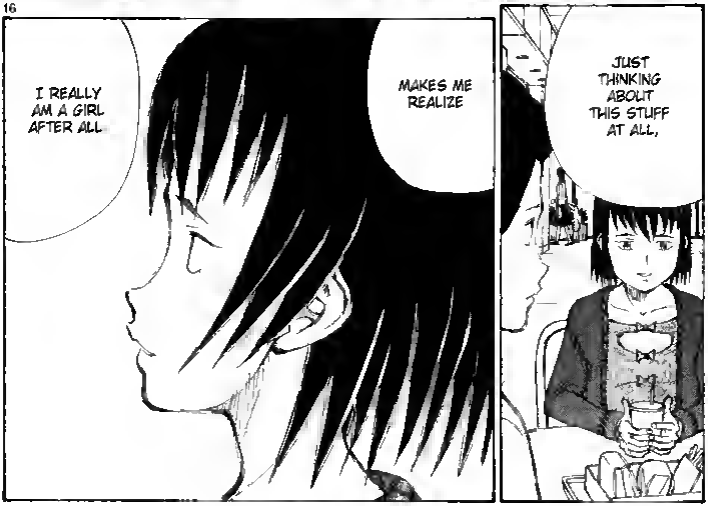

WHAT MY REAL MOTHER WAS LIKE.
AND THEN I WOULD IMAGINE

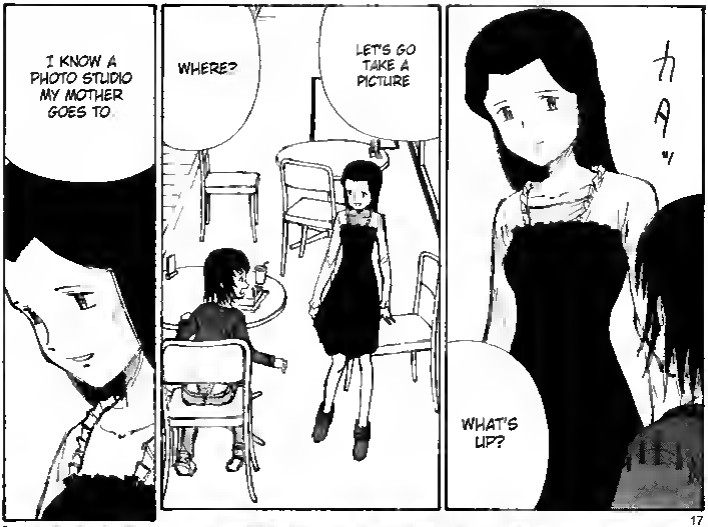

AND THERE'S SOME WOMAN WHO'S DROWNING IN ALCOHOL, OR MEN, OR MONEY,
WHENEVER I WATCH A TV SHOW OR THE NEWS,
I THINK SHE MUST HAVE BEEN JUST LIKE THAT

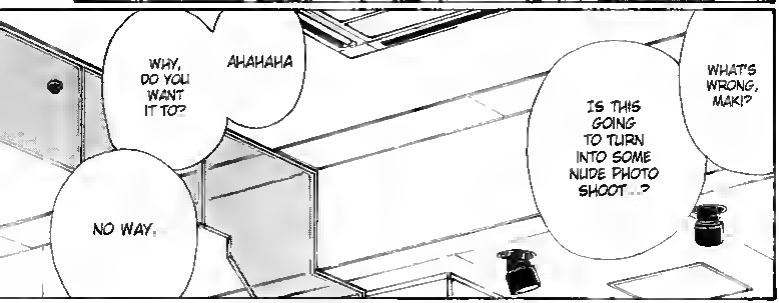
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING FOR SURE, BECAUSE NO ONE'S TOLD ME.

I DON'T THINK SHE WAS A VERY GOOD PERSON


IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO KNOW, OR MEET HER.
I JUST THINK I MIGHT HAVE THE SAME BLOOD IN MY VEINS.
THAT'S WHY
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT SAME FEMININITY WITHIN MYSELF.
BUT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW,
I WISH I COULD LEAVE A PORTRAIT OF MYSELF AS A GIRL, FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER.

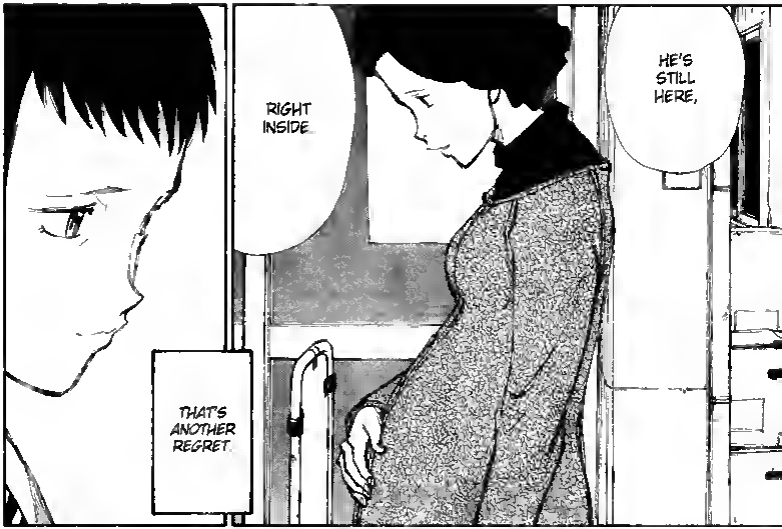

JUST THINKING ABOUT THIS STUFF AT ALL,
MAKES ME REALIZE
I REALLY AM A GIRL AFTER ALL.

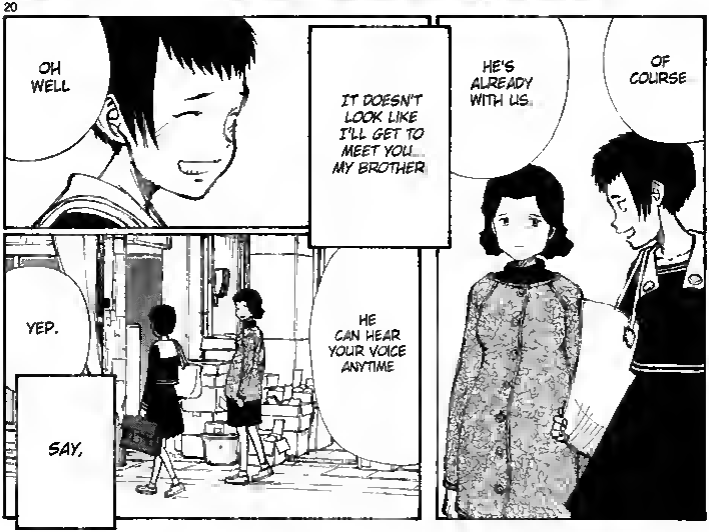

I KNOW A PHOTO STUDIO MY MOTHER GOES TO.
WHERE?
LET'S GO TAKE A PICTURE
カタ
WHAT'S UP?


WHY, DO YOU WANT IT TO?
AHAHAHA
WHAT'S WRONG, MAKI?
IS THIS GOING TO TURN INTO SOME NUDE PHOTO SHOOT...?
NO WAY.

MOM.
I'LL CARRY THAT.
I'M FINE, DEAR.
C'MON, IT'S NO PROBLEM
THE BIG DAY MUST BE COMING SOON
IT'S STILL A MONTH AWAY.

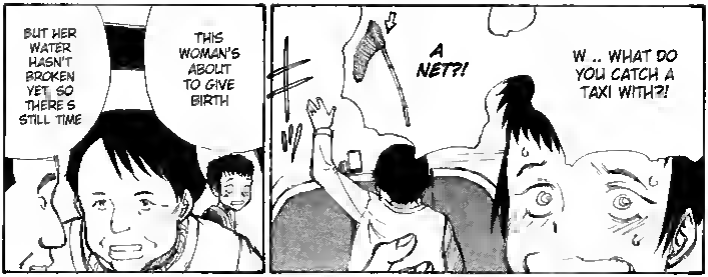
POP HIM OUT.
I WISH YOU COULD JUST HAVE IT ALREADY.
ANOTHER MONTH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
19
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO IMPATIENT.
WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH?
I WANT TO SEE HIM!
MM...

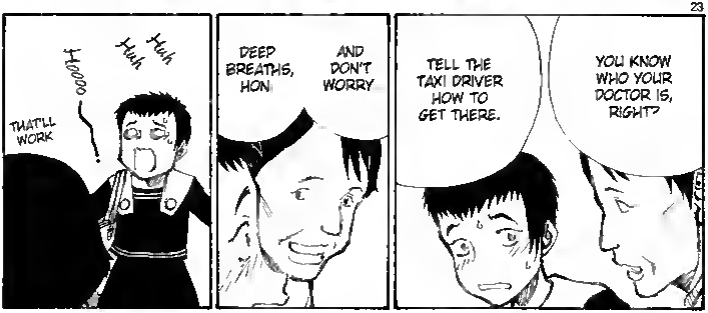

HE'S STILL HERE,
RIGHT INSIDE.
THAT'S ANOTHER REGRET.


OF COURSE.
HE'S ALREADY WITH US.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL GET TO MEET YOU... MY BROTHER.
OH WELL.
HE CAN HEAR YOUR VOICE ANYTIME.
YEP.
SAY,

WHAT WILL YOU BE LIKE WHEN YOU GROW UP?
WHAT KIND OF LIFE WILL YOU HAVE?
WILL YOU CRY, LAUGH, SCREAM,
DO ALL THE THINGS IN THE WORLD
THAT I DIDN'T GET TO DO?
YOU MIGHT NOT BE HAPPY ALL THE TIME...
YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN
BUT DON'T EVER FORGET TO BE GRATEFUL YOU EXIST
MMPH...
WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?
DON'T FORGET THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CARE SO MUCH FOR YOU...

OH DEAR!
OUCH!
MOM?!
22
UMM, OK... A TAXI?
CATCH A TAXI!!
JUST A TAXI, MAKI, THAT'LL DO!!
DO YOU NEED AN AMBU-LANCE?!


THIS WOMAN'S ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH
BUT HER WATER HASN'T BROKEN YET, SO THERE'S STILL TIME
A NET?!
W .. WHAT DO YOU CATCH A TAXI WITH?!


Huh Huh Huoooo
THAT'LL WORK
DEEP BREATHS, HON
AND DON'T WORRY
TELL THE TAXI DRIVER HOW TO GET THERE.
YOU KNOW WHO YOUR DOCTOR IS, RIGHT?

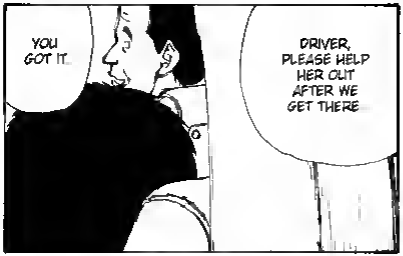
BIG SISTER.
HANG IN THERE,

ALL RIGHT, YOU PASS!!
NOW HELP OUT YOUR MOTHER!!

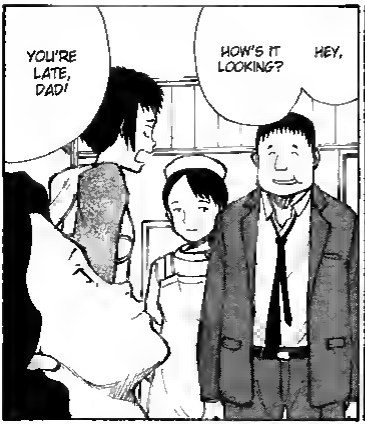
I WILL!!

OK.
WHEN WE GET TO THE HOSPITAL,
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO GO HOME AND BRING BACK.

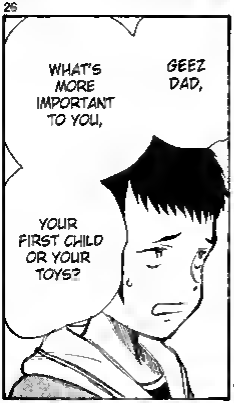
YES, IT'S CALMED DOWN A BIT.
ARE YOU OK, MOM?


YOU GOT IT.
DRIVER, PLEASE HELP HER OUT AFTER WE GET THERE.

HEE HEE
BIG SISTER ..


YOU'RE LATE, DAD!
HOW'S IT LOOKING?
HEY,

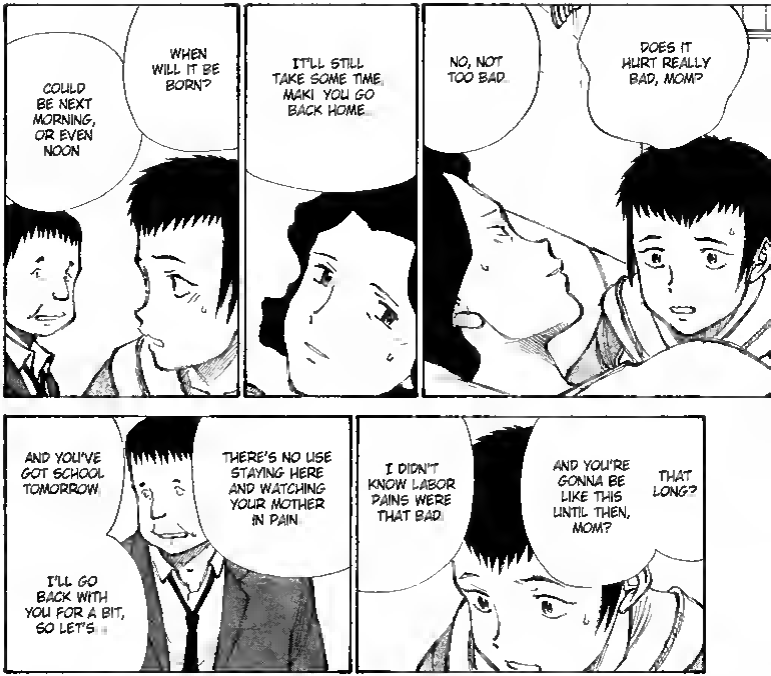
DAD.

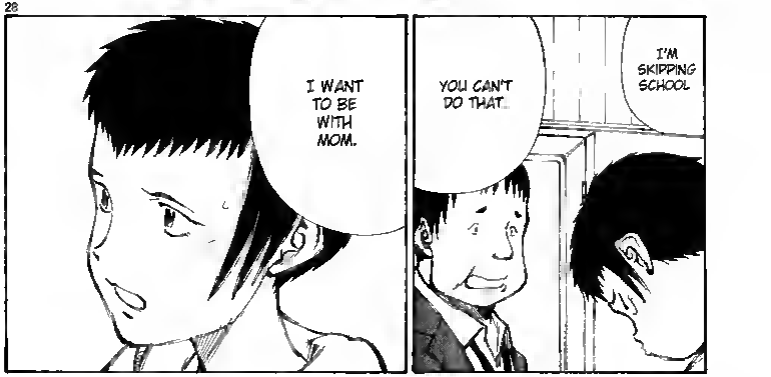

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU,
GEEZ DAD,
YOUR FIRST CHILD OR YOUR TOYS?

WELL, THEY JUST GOT IT IN TODAY!
YOU DIDN'T!!
WELL...
I... I COULDN'T HELP IT

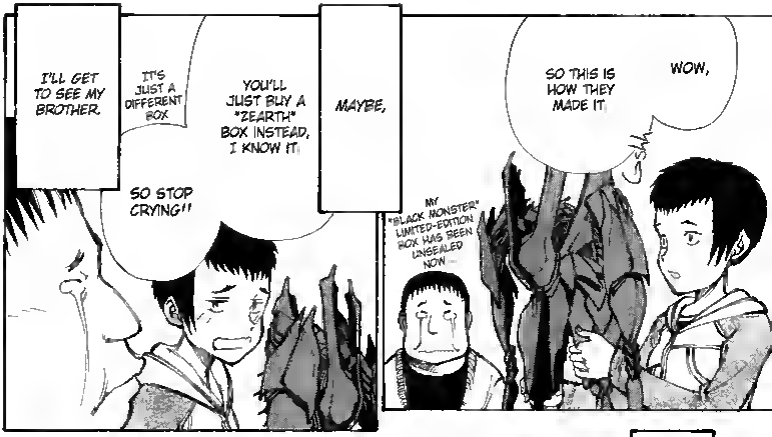
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?
HUH?

OUR FIRST CHILD
IS YOU.
SO, KID OR TOY, WHICH IS IT?
UM,
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS ONE
OH...
OH, OUCH. .
IT'S THE SECOND FOR MOM, TOO,
SO SHE'S USED TO IT, RIGHT?
HA HA HA.
YOU'RE KIDDING
DON'T TAKE IT TOO FAR, DAD.


WHEN WILL IT BE BORN?
COULD BE NEXT MORNING, OR EVEN NOON
IT'LL STILL TAKE SOME TIME. MAKI YOU GO BACK HOME.
NO, NOT TOO BAD.
DOES IT HURT REALLY BAD, MOM?
THERE'S NO USE STAYING HERE AND WATCHING YOUR MOTHER IN PAIN.
AND YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMORROW.
I'LL GO BACK WITH YOU FOR A BIT, SO LET'S...
I DIDN'T KNOW LABOR PAINS WERE THAT BAD.
AND YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THIS UNTIL THEN, MOM?
THAT LONG?


I WANT TO BE WITH MOM.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
I'M SKIPPING SCHOOL

HONEY
WHAT?
PLEASE?
I'M SORRY. WE DON'T HAVE FACILITIES FOR STAYING OVERNIGHT
BUT STILL.
29
SHE SHOULD SEE THIS
MAKI IS A GIRL
I'LL GO BACK HOME AND GET A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
WELL, ALL RIGHT.
GUESS I'LL GET A BLANKET, TOO.


I'LL GET TO SEE MY BROTHER.
IT'S JUST A DIFFERENT BOX
YOU'LL JUST BUY A "ZEARTH" BOX INSTEAD, I KNOW IT.
MAYBE,
SO STOP CRYING!!
MY "BLACK MONSTER" LIMITED-EDITION BOX HAS BEEN UNSEALED NOW...
SO THIS IS HOW THEY MADE IT.
WOW,
GASP

BUT AT THIS RATE,
I HAD GIVEN UP HOPE OF IT HAPPENING.
WHEN I KNEW MY TURN HAD COME,
I HAD AVOIDED THINKING ABOUT IT.
UP UNTIL NOW,
I MIGHT GET
TO SEE MY BROTHER.

CAN I?
I CAN SEE HIM.
I SHOULDN'T HOPE.
NO.

CHAPTER 26/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

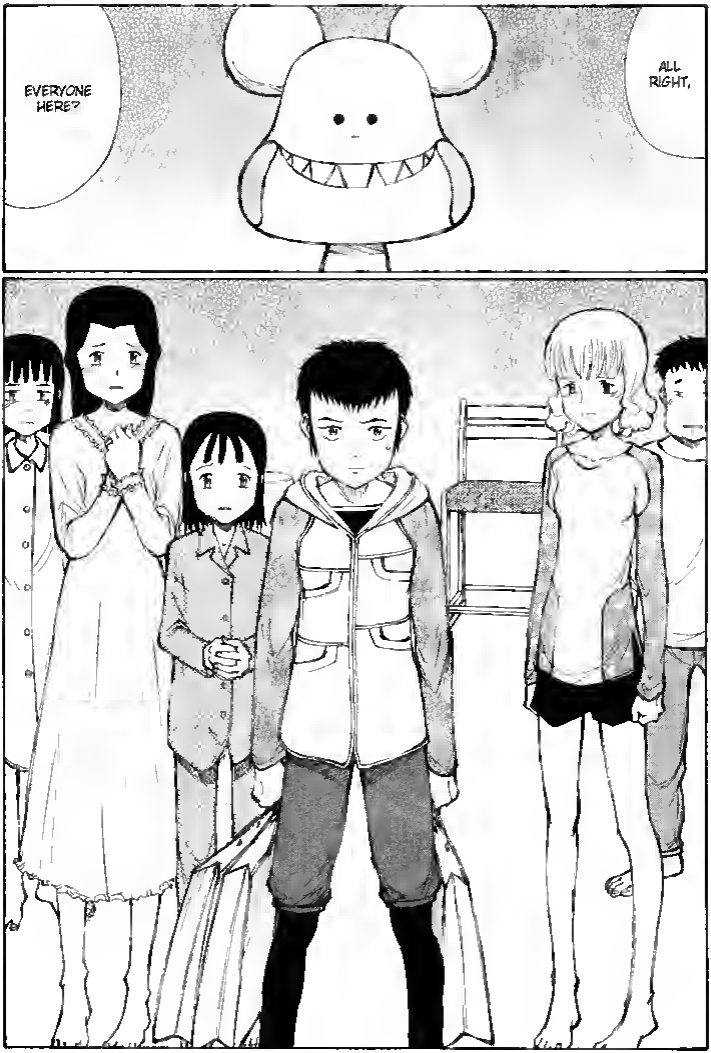
Takami Komoda
(Komo)

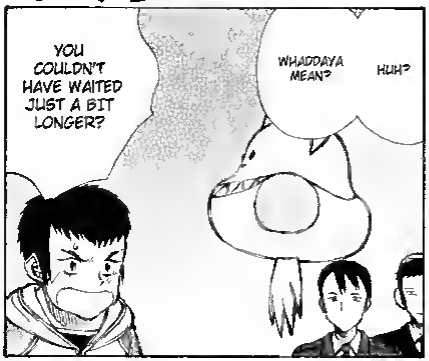
Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

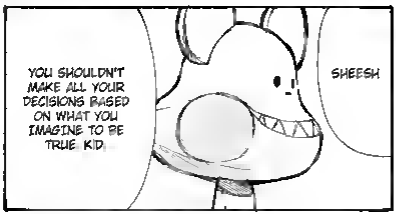
Dung Beetle

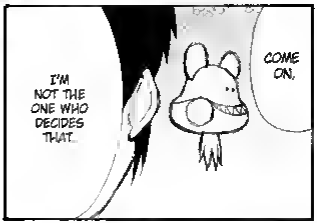
ぼくらの
CHAPTER 27
MAKI ANO (3)
SHE THOUGHT SHE WOULD NEVER SEE HIM. THE GIRL FIGHTS, BELIEVING IN THE SMILE OF HER UNBORN YOUNGER BROTHER.
鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏


EVERYONE HERE?
ALL RIGHT,


YOU COULDN'T HAVE WAITED JUST A BIT LONGER?
WHADDAYA MEAN?
HUH?

YOU REALLY DO HAVE A DISGUSTING PERSONALITY

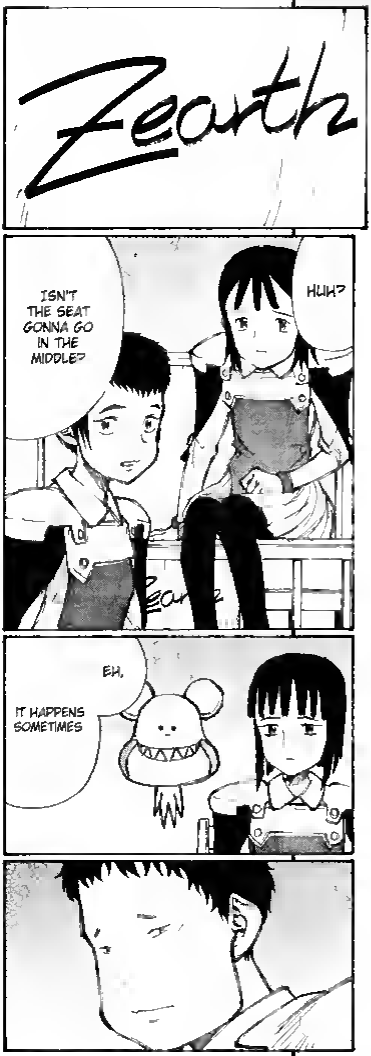

YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE ALL YOUR DECISIONS BASED ON WHAT YOU IMAGINE TO BE TRUE, KID.
SHEESH.

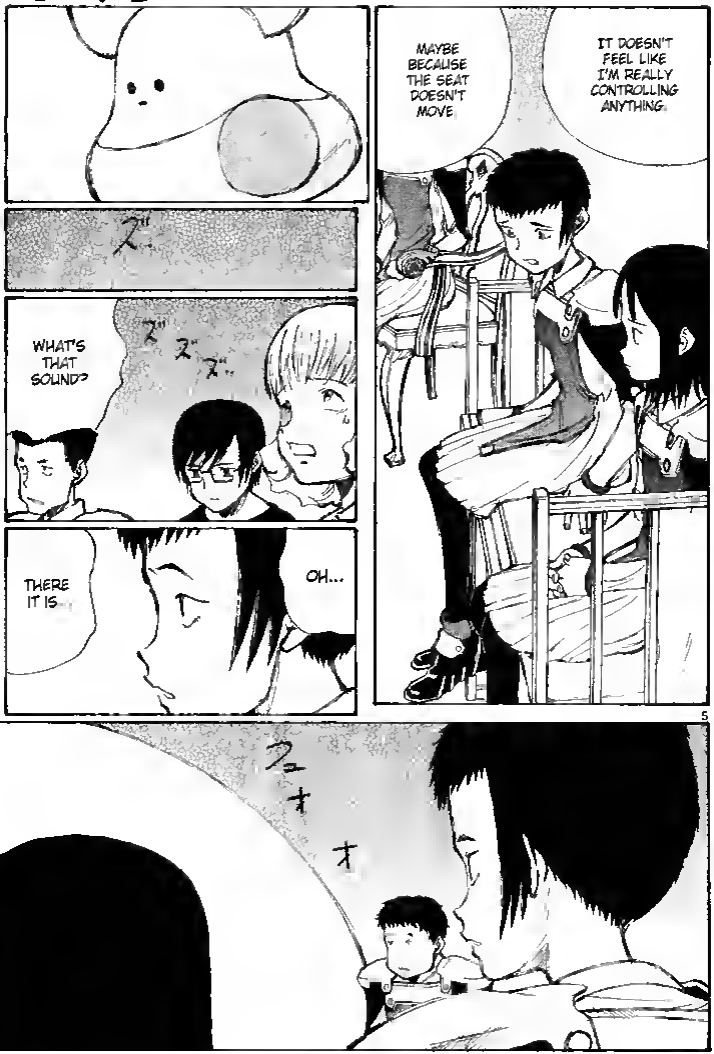

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO DECIDES THAT.
COME ON,

YOU HELPED OUT WITH MAKING THEM, KOMO.
THESE ARE DAICHI AND THE OTHERS' COSTUMES.
YEP.
THE ONES I SEWED ARE REALLY TERRIBLE. DON'T LOOK AT THEM.

DON'T WORRY.
KOMO,

MAKI...

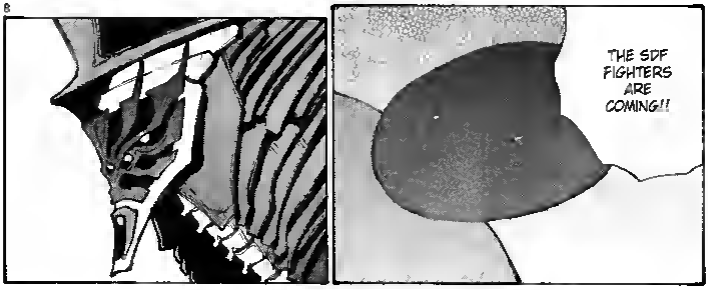

Zeorth
ISN'T THE SEAT GONNA GO IN THE MIDDLE?
HUH?
EH,
IT HAPPENS SOMETIMES


IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'M REALLY CONTROLLING ANYTHING.
MAYBE BECAUSE THE SEAT DOESN'T MOVE.
ズ"
ズ"
ズ"
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
OH...
THERE IT IS.
フォ
オ

HUH?
WELL... I ACTUALLY CAN'T GET AHOLD OF HQ NOW...
JUST GIVE ME A FEW MOMENTS
I'M READY TO MOVE TO THE COAST
GIVE ME MY DIRECTIONS, CAPTAIN SEKI.
NO, IT'S JUST A BIT DIFFERENT.
WAIT... ISN'T THAT THE ONE KOKOPELLI...

ドスッ
THE ENEMY IS...
MOVING...
ドスドス
ドス
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW IT.
IS IT... CHANGING LOCATION FOR US?

I'LL JUST OVERPOWER IT THE WAY KOKOPELLI DID.
THERE'S NO USE JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
NO WAY
LIKE A TRAP?
MAYBE IT'S GOT THE ADVANTAGE IN THE WATER?
IT'S GONE OUT TO SEA FOR US?


THE SDF FIGHTERS ARE COMING!!

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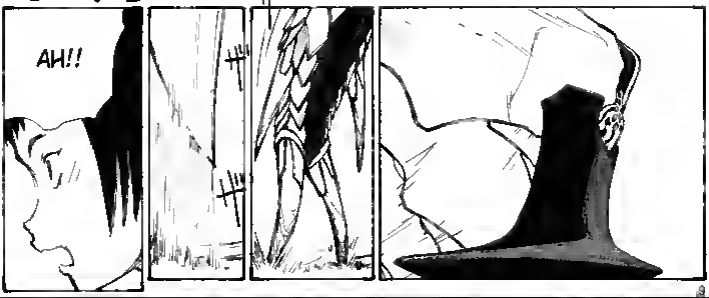

IT'S JUST A BLUFF!!
GROSS!!
IT'S STANDING!!
ズズ
HERE WE GO!!
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ブルン
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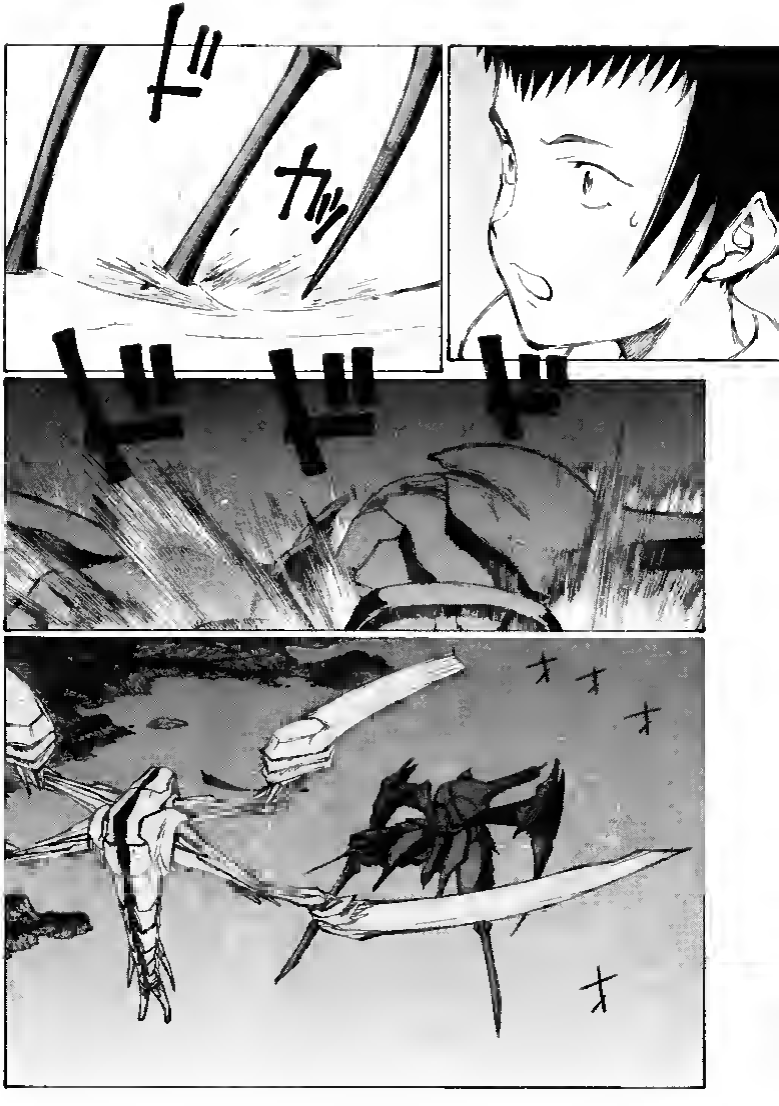
12
ガッ
ドド
AH!!
ギャギャ

GET BACK!!
AH!!
I CAN'T RUN AWAY!!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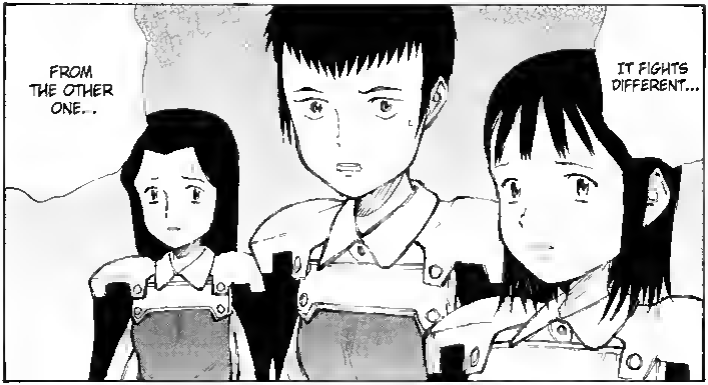
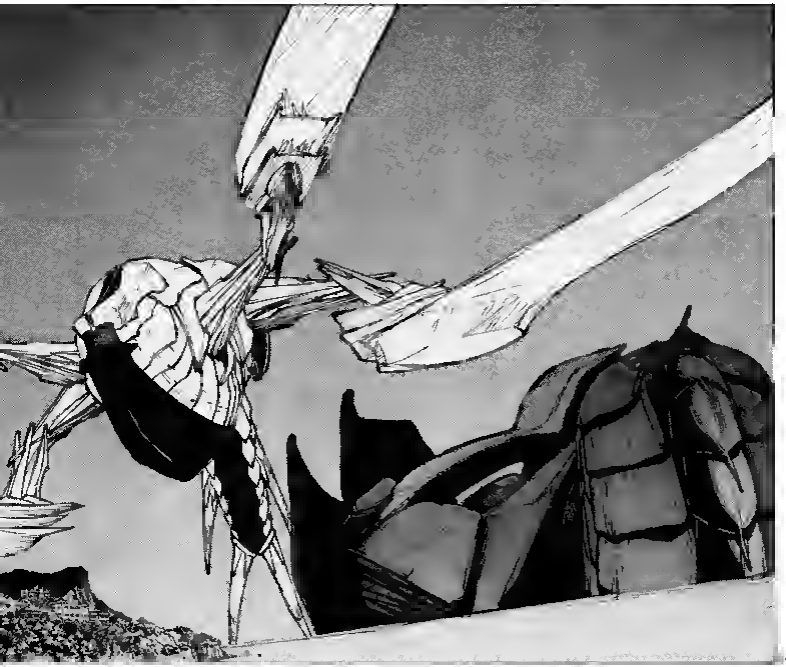
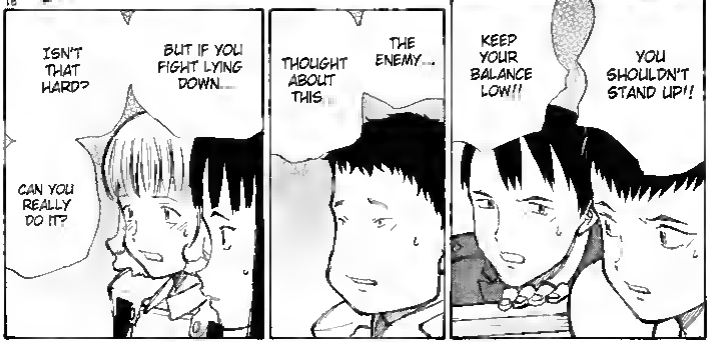




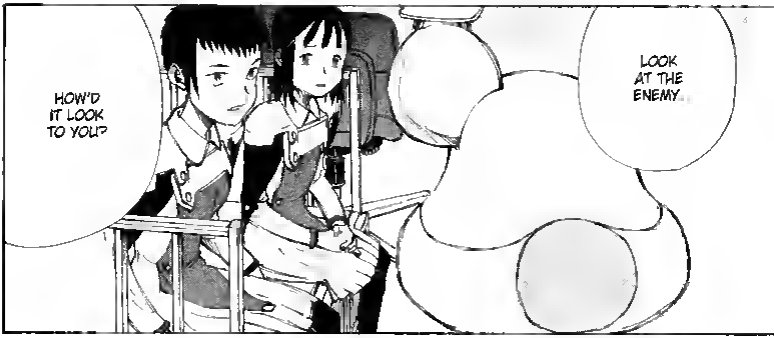
I... I DUNNO.
SHOULD I JUST RUSH IN ON IT?
W... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
16
DON'T STAND UP!!
HERE IT COMES!!
AH!!

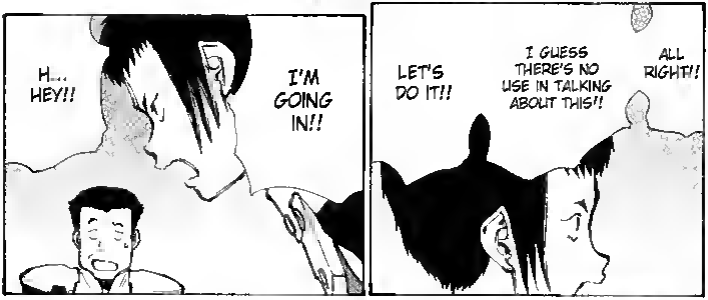
HUH...
OH!!

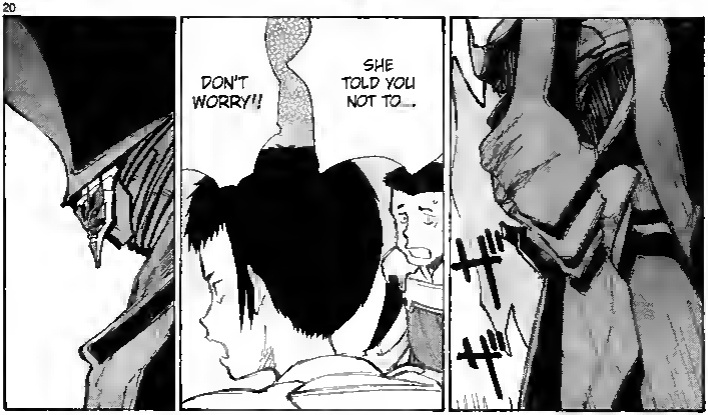
FF
FF

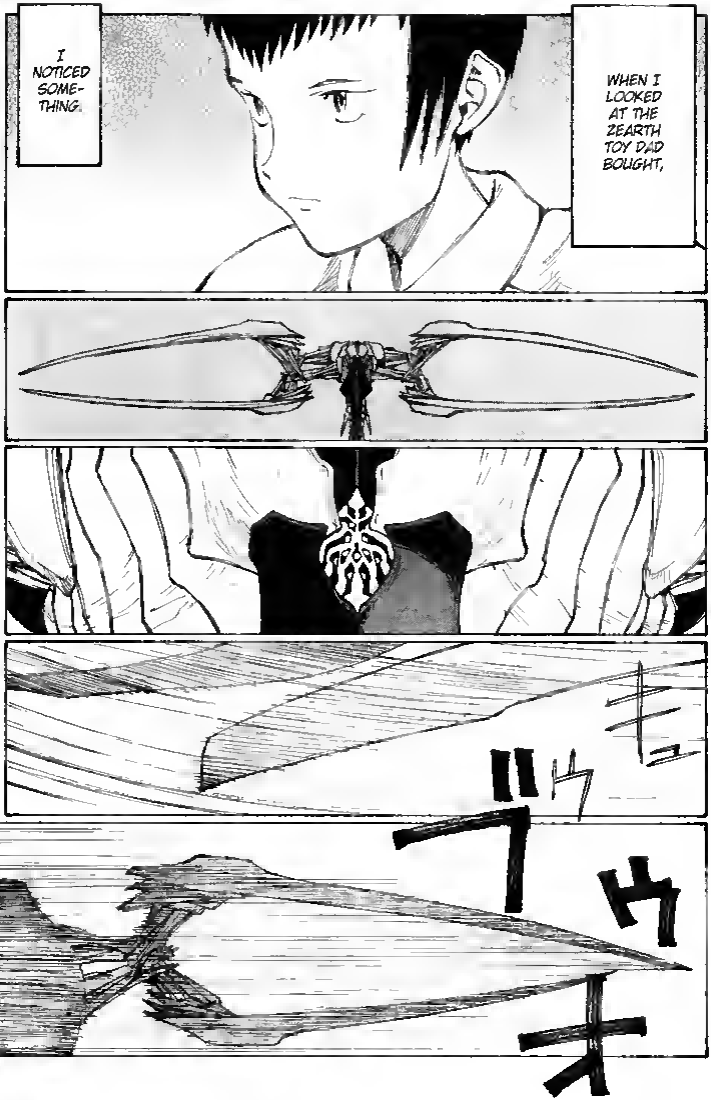

ISN'T THAT HARD?
BUT IF YOU FIGHT LYING DOWN...
CAN YOU REALLY DO IT?
THOUGHT ABOUT THIS...
THE ENEMY...
KEEP YOUR BALANCE LOW!!
YOU SHOULDN'T STAND UP!!

MY DAD ALWAYS SAID,
THE HUMAN BODY ISN'T SHAPED FOR COMBAT
WHEN YOU FACE THE ENEMY, YOU GIVE THEM THE LARGEST POSSIBLE TARGET,
MAKING IT EXTREMELY EASY FOR THEM TO ATTACK YOU
THAT'S WHY THE FIRST THING SOLDIERS LEARN
IS HOW TO CRAWL ON THE GROUND
DUNG BEETLE,
ZEARTH'S MAIN STRUCTURE
IS HUMAN-BASED,
ISN'T IT?


HOW'D IT LOOK TO YOU?
LOOK AT THE ENEMY...

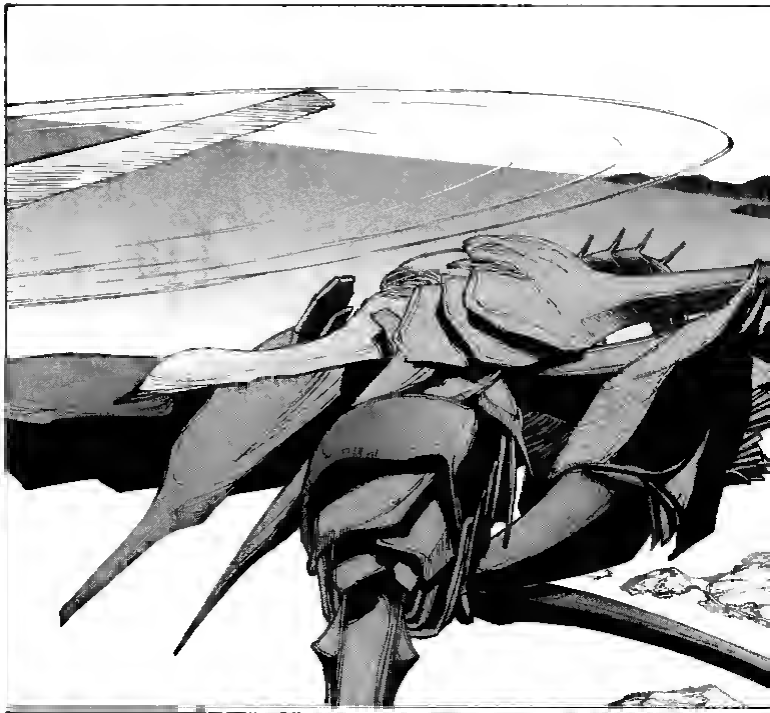

H... HEY!!
I'M GOING IN!!
LET'S DO IT!!
I GUESS THERE'S NO USE IN TALKING ABOUT THIS!!
ALL RIGHT!!


DON'T WORRY!!
SHE TOLD YOU NOT TO...


I NOTICED SOME-THING.
WHEN I LOOKED AT THE ZEARTH TOY DAD BOUGHT,

SHUT UP!!
IT'S STILL BEATING YOU!!

ZEARTH...
YOU LEAVE THE ULTIMATE FORM
ガシッ
FOR LAST!! ALWAYS!!

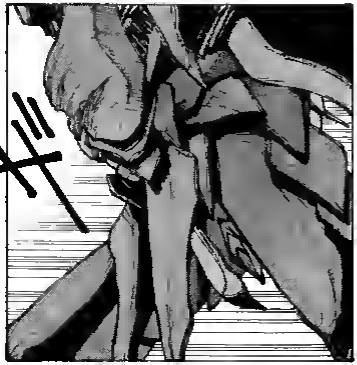


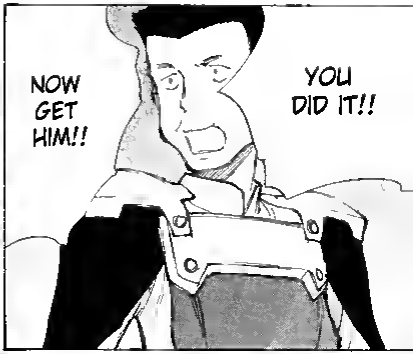
HUH...
DOESN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE HUMAN-SHAPED

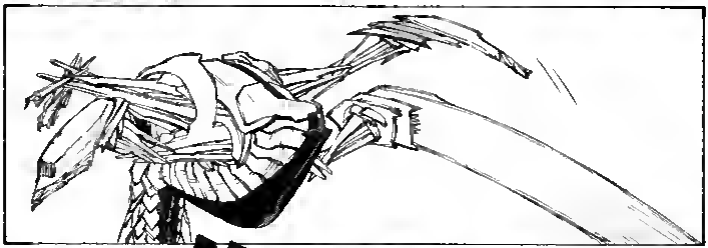
WAIT...
I CAN SNEAK DOWN BELOW...
USE THE LEG!!
HERE IT COMES AGAIN!!
CRAP, THAT BACKFIRED!!
IT'S STILL SLICING ME!!

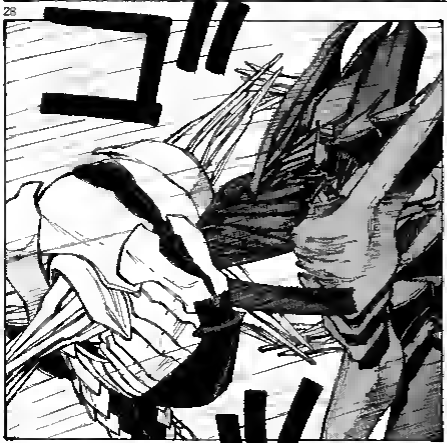
ハッ
ハッ

ぼくらの
ドカ




NOW GET HIM!!
YOU DID IT!!





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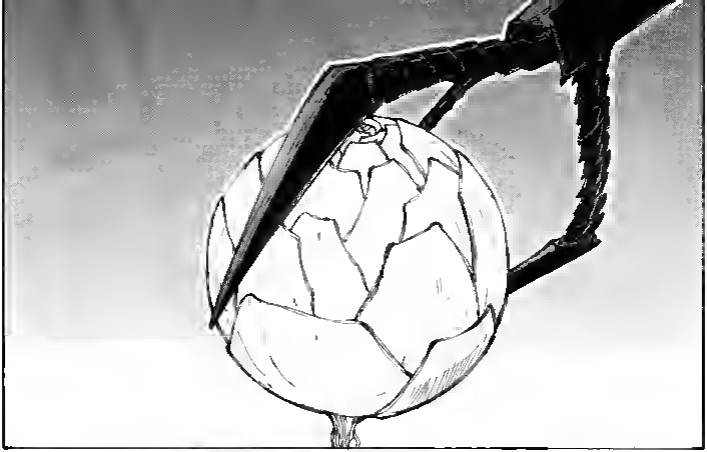
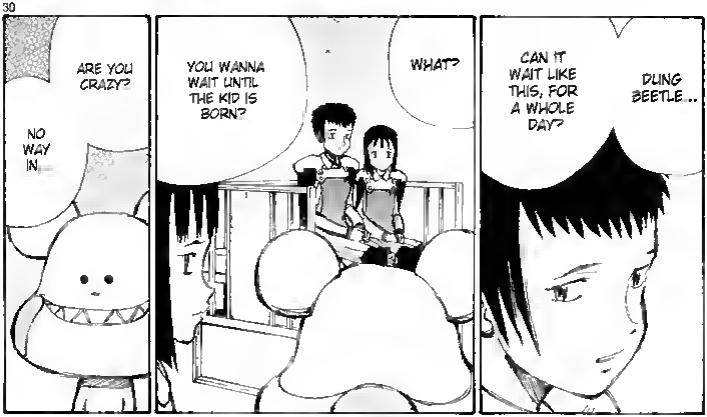
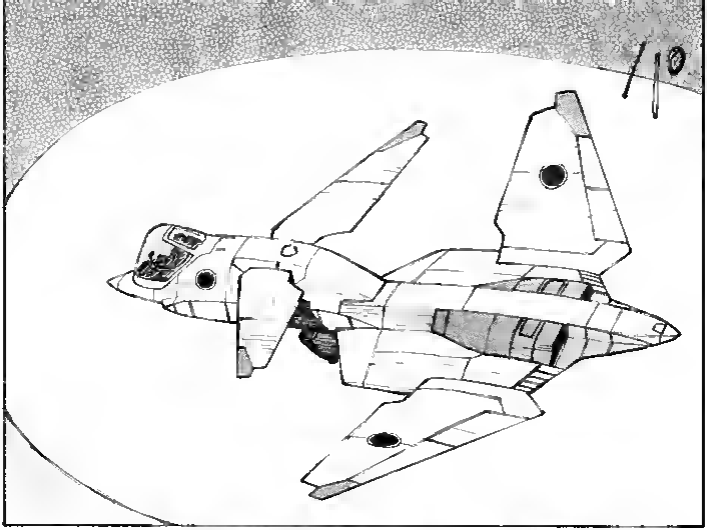
ドカッ
バキャ
ドカ

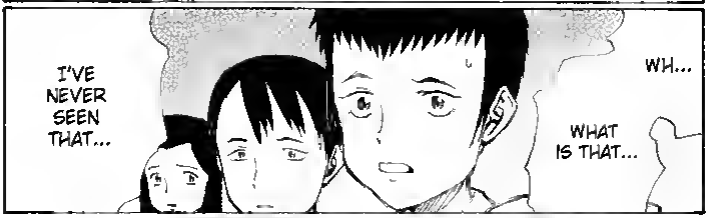


MAKI...


ARE YOU CRAZY?
NO WAY IN...
YOU WANNA WAIT UNTIL THE KID IS BORN?
WHAT?
CAN IT WAIT LIKE THIS, FOR A WHOLE DAY?
DUNG BEETLE...

ぼくらの
ドカ
WHAT?!
ドン
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK?!
WHAT HAPPENED, CAPTAIN?!





CHAPTER 27/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
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Yasuhiko Meji
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(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

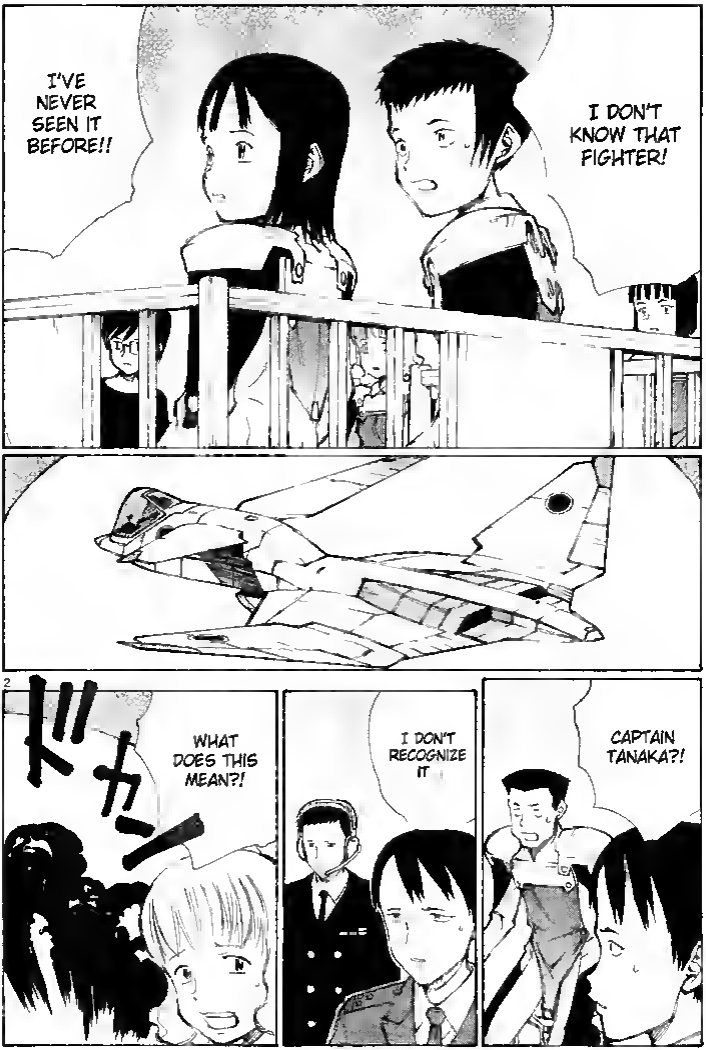
Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

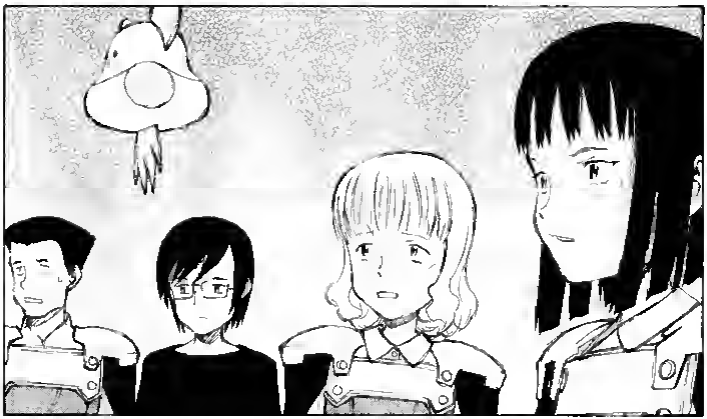
Dung Beetle

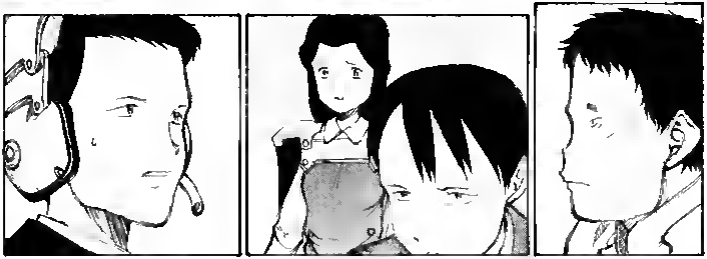
ぼくらの

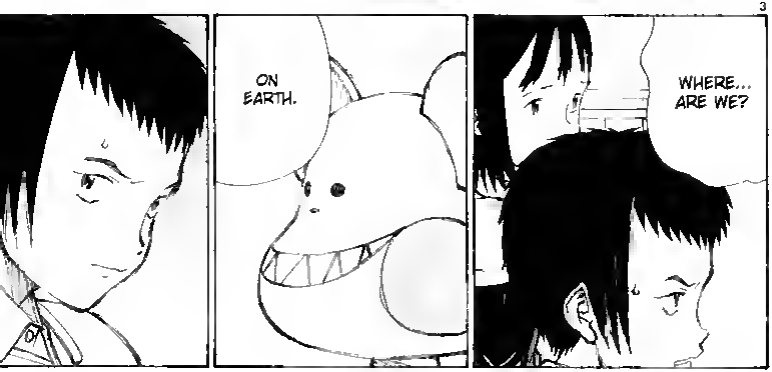
CHAPTER 28
MAKI ANO (4)

鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏

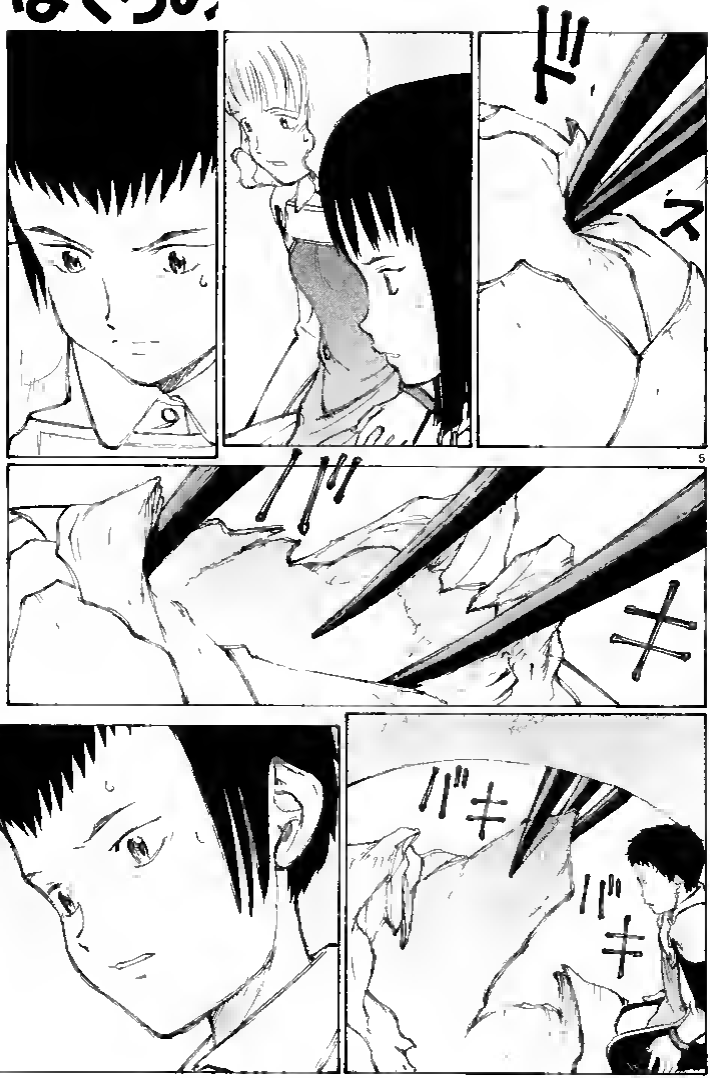

I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!!
I DON'T KNOW THAT FIGHTER!
2
ドカン
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!
I DON'T RECOGNIZE IT
CAPTAIN TANAKA?!






ON EARTH.
WHERE... ARE WE?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
WH... WHY?
I... I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DO IT...


ドン
バキ
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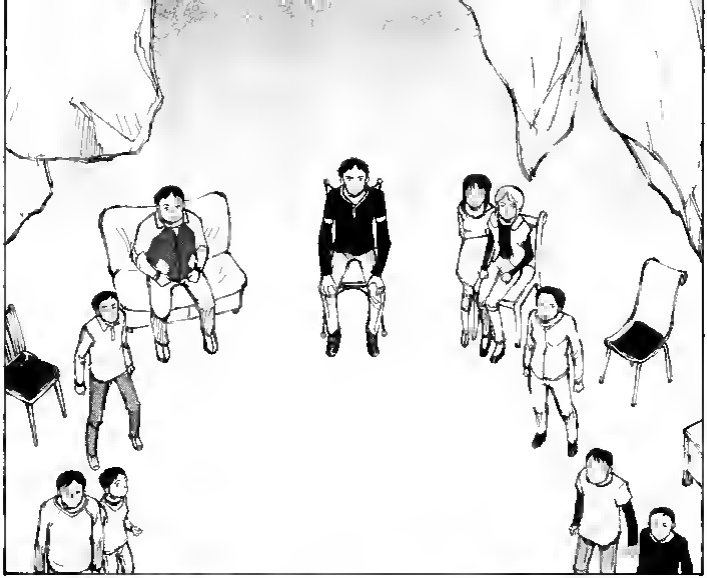


DUNG BEETLE,
WHO ARE
WE FIGHTING?

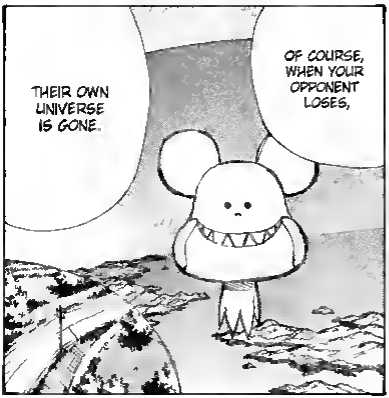
AGAINST EARTH.
YOU ARE FIGHTING
MAN, WHAT A JERK
YOU MEAN KOKOPELLI DIDN'T TELL YOU?
JUST TELL ME THE TRUTH!!
IN OTHER WORDS, A PARALLEL WORLD EARTH
THE TERMINAL POINT OF A DIVERGING BRANCH IN SPACE

3

* A concept rooted in the "parallel world" cosmology found in science fiction novels and other writings. The universe, including Earth, branches out into infinite space-time possibilities that exist simultaneously. The closer to the divergence, the closer the worlds are, and the more distant, the more different they are.

ぼくらの

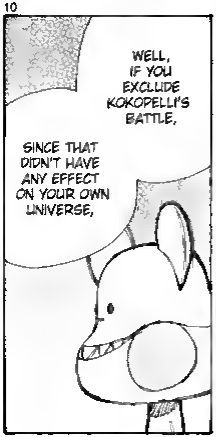
OTHER VERSIONS OF OURSELVES?
WE'RE FIGHTING AGAINST.
W... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OF EARTH.
TO WEED OUT THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES
WHY...
WHAT DOES... THAT MEAN?
KINDA LIKE PRUNING SHRUBS
NO, OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF.


THEIR OWN UNIVERSE IS GONE.
OF COURSE, WHEN YOUR OPPONENT LOSES,

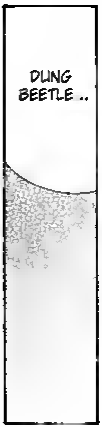
YOUR UNIVERSE AND ITS PLACE IN SPACE-TIME WILL DISAPPEAR
IF YOU LOSE,
IT WILL NO LONGER EXIST.

THE PROBLEM IS...
DO WE HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE IT?

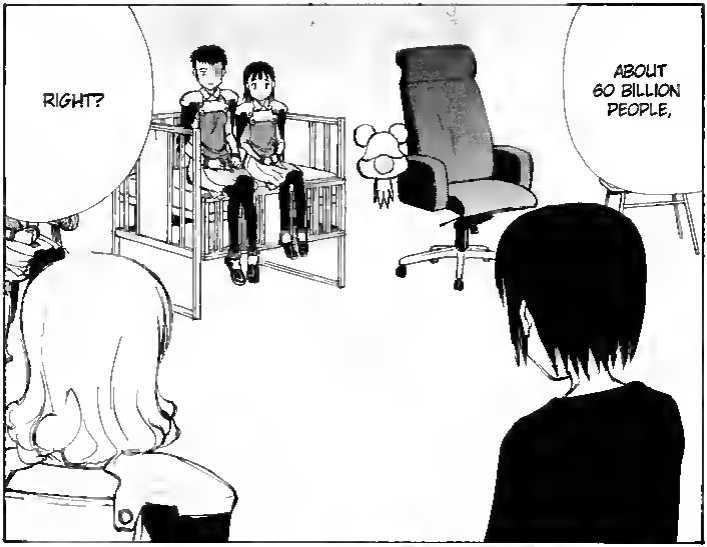
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...


WELL, IF YOU EXCLUDE KOKOPELLI'S BATTLE,
SINCE THAT DIDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOUR OWN UNIVERSE,

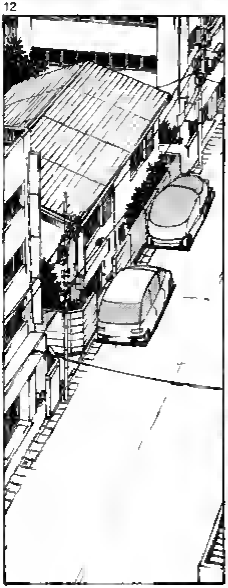
HAVE WE KILLED?
EXACTLY HOW MANY PEOPLE

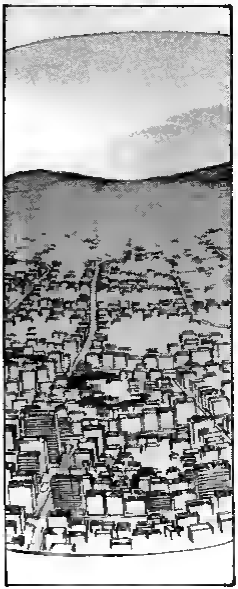

DUNG BEETLE ..

ぼくらの


ABOUT 60 BILLION PEOPLE,
RIGHT?
FOR EACH BATTLE YOU WIN,
THAT'S ABOUT 10 BILLION THAT DIE.
SO... THIS IS...
THE EARTH OF YOUR OPPONENTS,
AS YOU CAN GUESS

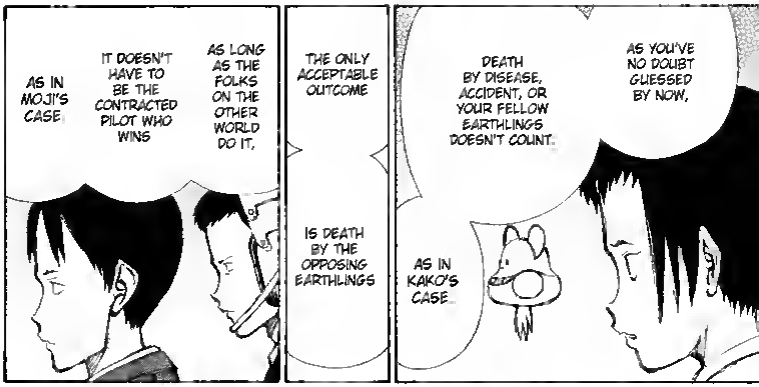
12





YOU GOTTA HAVE THE PLACES WITH THE LEAST DIVERGENCE CRUSH EACH OTHER FIRST.
WELL IF YOU WANNA PRESERVE VARIETY,
WHY IS IT SO SIMILAR...?
WHY,
OF THE ENEMY ROBOT.
TO KILL THE ACTING PILOT
IT'S ACTUALLY
THE ENEMY'S VITAL AREA, OF COURSE, IS THE COCKPIT,
OH YEAH, ANOTHER THING...
BUT CRUSHING IT ISN'T THE CONDITION FOR VICTORY.
60 BILLION ...?

THAT'S HOW YOU WIN.


AS IN MOJI'S CASE...
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE CONTRACTED PILOT WHO WINS
AS LONG AS THE FOLKS ON THE OTHER WORLD DO IT,
THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME
IS DEATH BY THE OPPOSING EARTHLINGS
AS IN KAKO'S CASE...
DEATH BY DISEASE, ACCIDENT, OR YOUR FELLOW EARTHLINGS DOESN'T COUNT.
AS YOU'VE NO DOUBT GUESSED BY NOW,

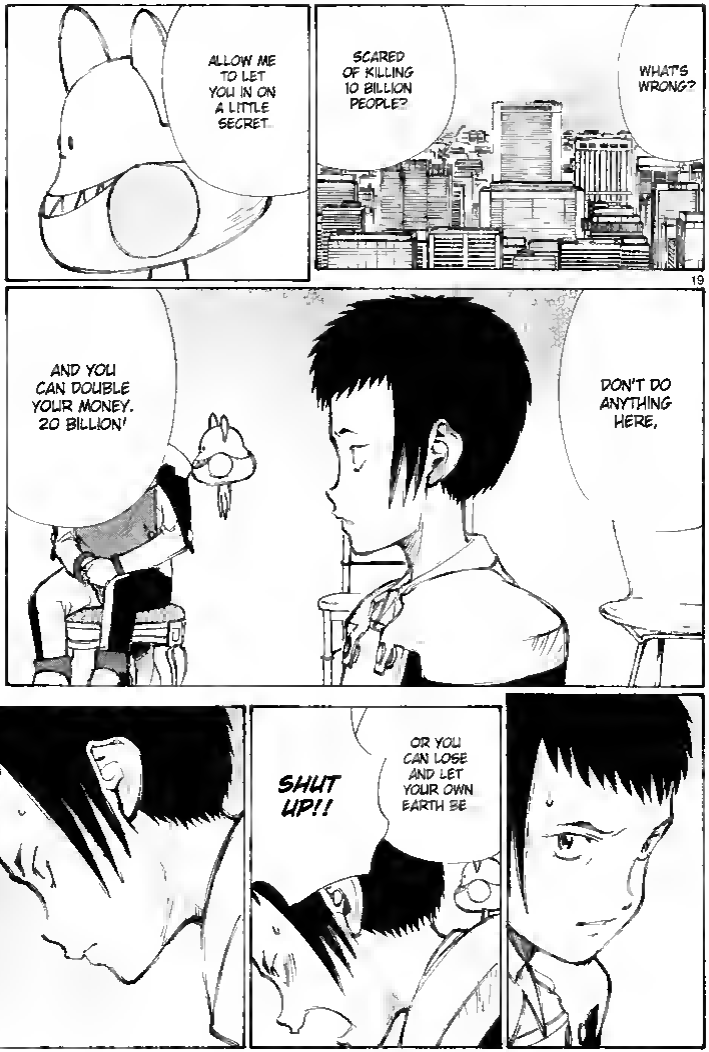
DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
TO KILL HIM?
I HAVE

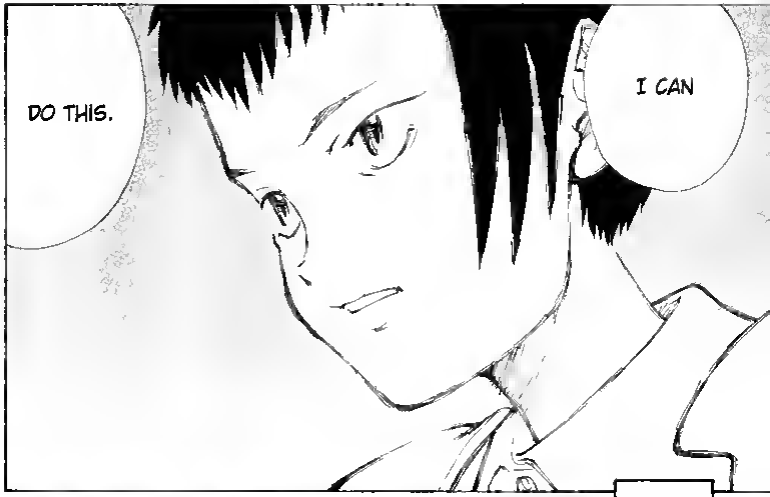
ALL THESE PEOPLE'S..

I CAN SEE WHERE
THEIR LIVES ARE...

LIVES..

MISS ANO...
THERE ARE SO MANY...
OHHH...
110
110


ALLOW ME TO LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET.
SCARED OF KILLING 10 BILLION PEOPLE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
19
AND YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR MONEY. 20 BILLION!
DON'T DO ANYTHING HERE.
SHUT UP!!
OR YOU CAN LOSE AND LET YOUR OWN EARTH BE

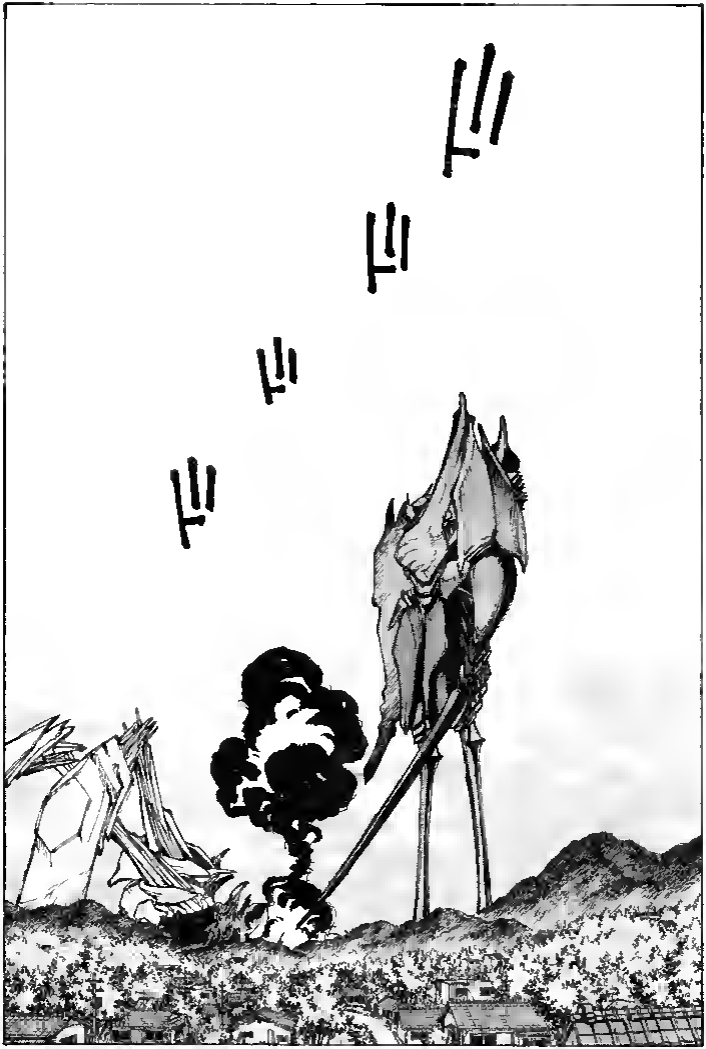

I CAN
DO THIS.

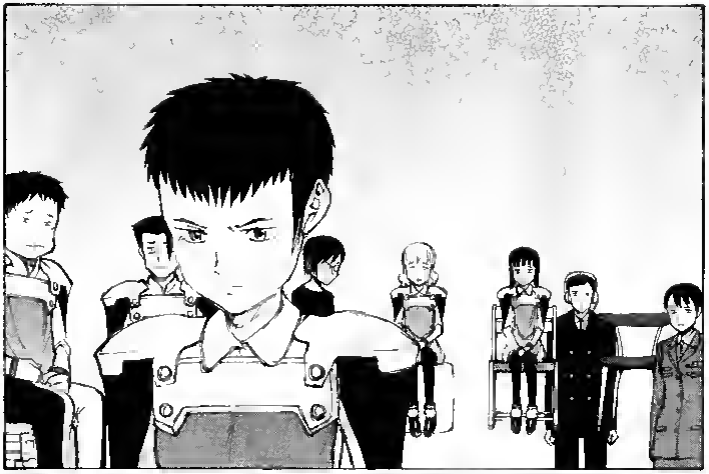
FOR MY BROTHER'S FUTURE,
FOR MY DAD AND MOM,
I CAN BE A TERRIBLE PERSON
KANA,
COME OVER HERE
I'VE BEEN GIVEN
13 YEARS.

I WANT TO GIVE MY BROTHER TIME, TOO.
I COULD KILL 10 BILLION PEOPLE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.
I HAVE THE TERRIBLE BLOOD OF MY PARENTS RUNNING IN MY VEINS
I CAN AT LEAST DO THIS

SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
HERE I GO.

CLOSE YOUR EYES,
EVERYONE
WHAT I'M GOING TO DO
IS VERY, VERY UGLY.
KANA,
I'M SORRY.
I'LL WATCH.
I'VE GOT TO KILL 10 BILLION PEOPLE, TOO.
THANK YOU.

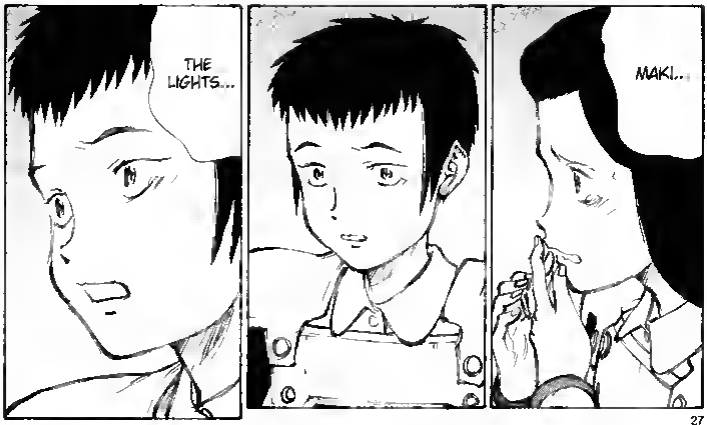




USHIRO.

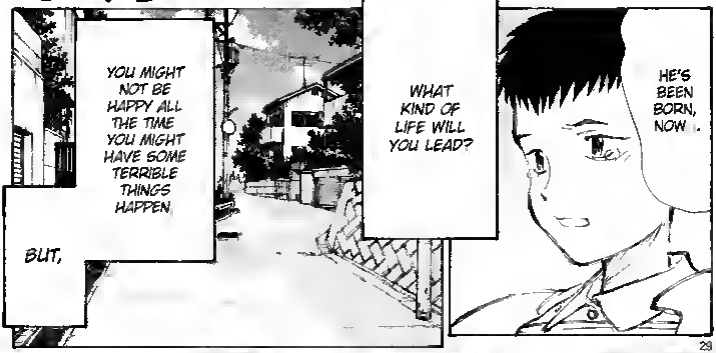
YOU...
YOU'D BETTER FIGHT,
TO PROTECT KANA.

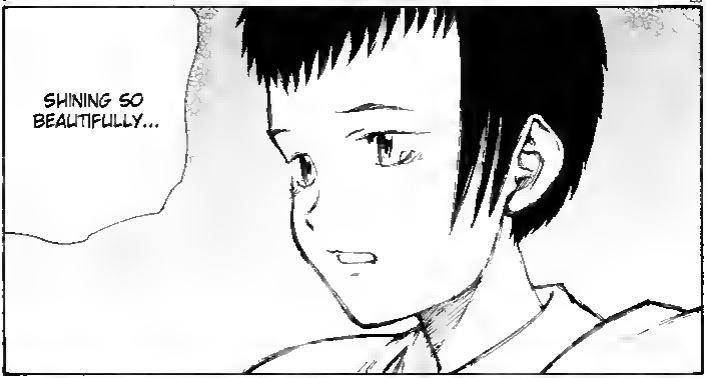
THIS IS YOUR EARTH.
ARE WE BACK?

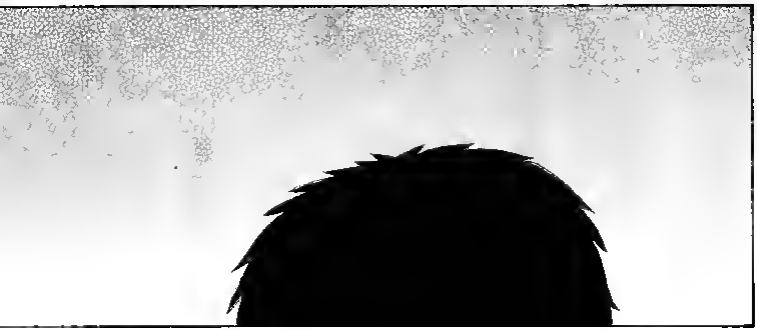

THE LIGHTS...
MAKI...

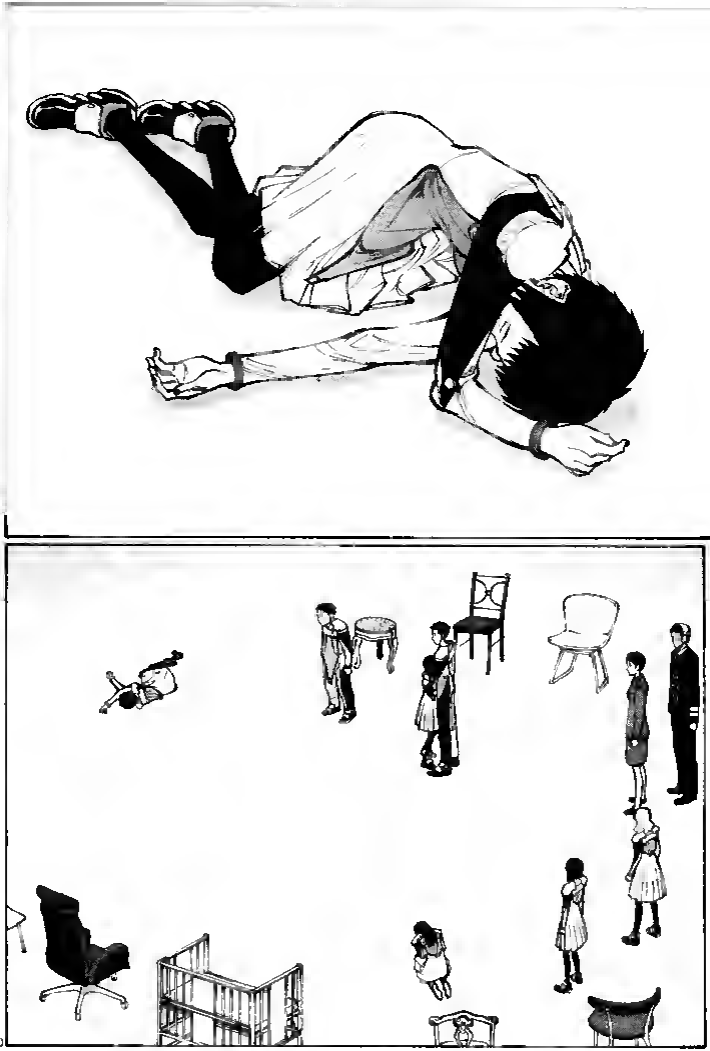
I SEE THE LIGHTS...

AND THAT'S MOM..
THAT ONE'S DAD...
I KNOW THEM...
THAT'S...
AND...
THAT'S HIM...

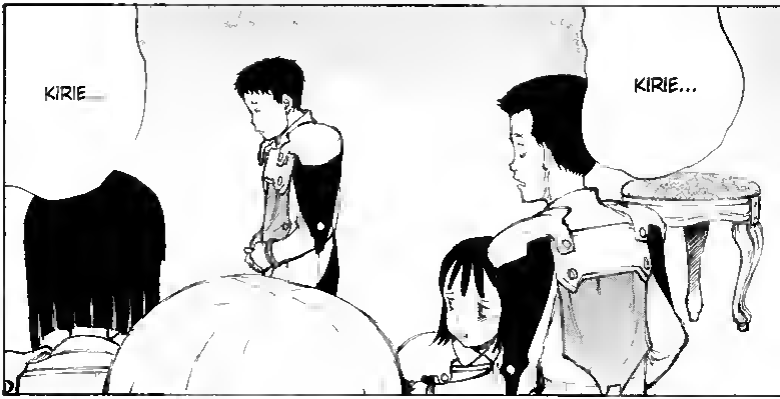

HE'S BEEN BORN, NOW.
WHAT KIND OF LIFE WILL YOU LEAD?
YOU MIGHT NOT BE HAPPY ALL THE TIME YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN
BUT,

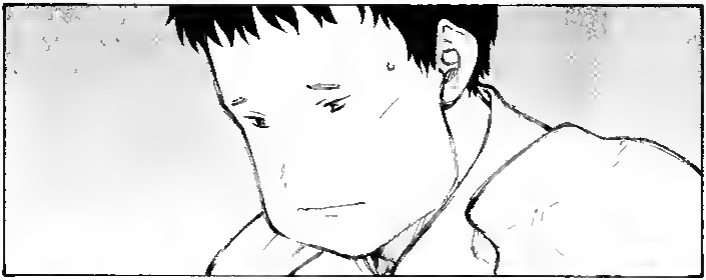

SHINING SO BEAUTIFULLY...





I CAN'T DO IT...
I...
THINK I CAN FIGHT...
I DON'T...





CHAPTER 28/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

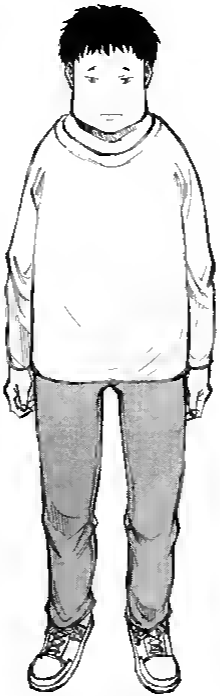
Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

CHAPTER 29
YOSUKE KIRIE (1)

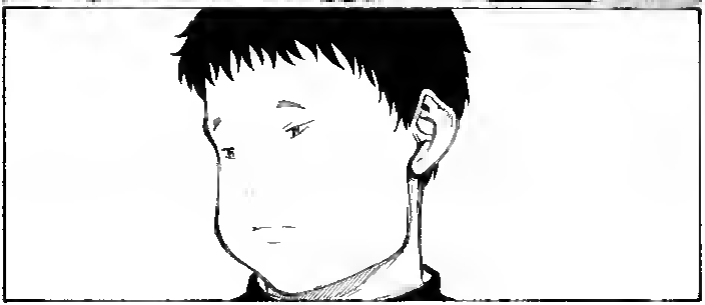


I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FIGHT...

WHAT LIES WITHIN HIS HEART THAT MAKES HIM THINK SO?

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

立入禁止



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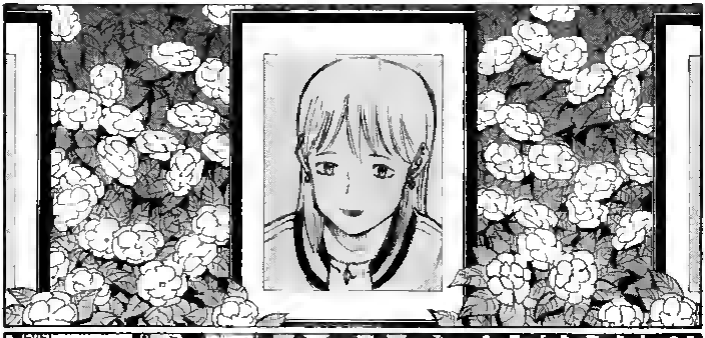
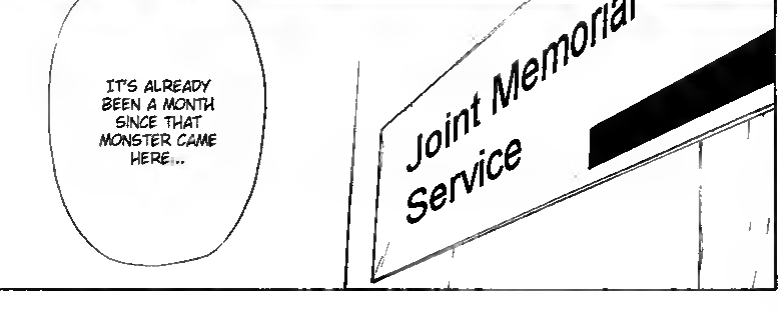
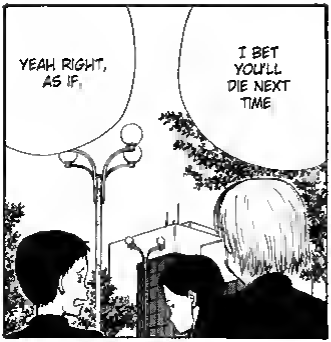
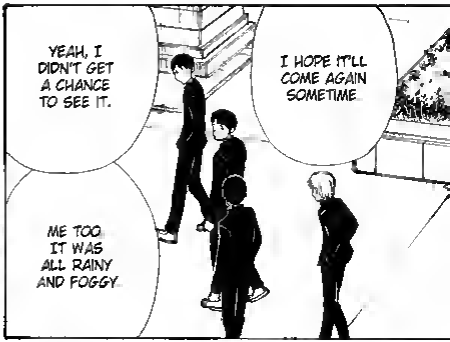
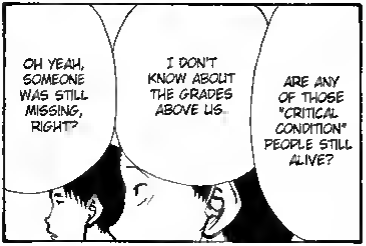
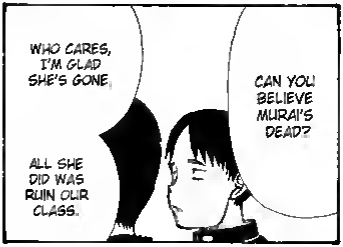



IT'S ALREADY BEEN A MONTH SINCE THAT MONSTER CAME HERE...
Joint Memorial Service

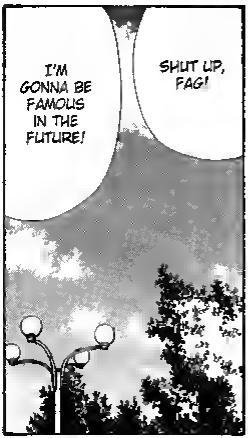

YEAH RIGHT, AS IF.
I BET YOU'LL DIE NEXT TIME


YEAH, I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SEE IT.
I HOPE IT'LL COME AGAIN SOMETIME
ME TOO. IT WAS ALL RAINY AND FOGGY


OH YEAH, SOMEONE WAS STILL MISSING, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE GRADES ABOVE US.
ARE ANY OF THOSE "CRITICAL CONDITION" PEOPLE STILL ALIVE?


WHO CARES, I'M GLAD SHE'S GONE.
ALL SHE DID WAS RUIN OUR CLASS.
CAN YOU BELIEVE MURAI'S DEAD?

4


I'M GONNA BE FAMOUS IN THE FUTURE!
SHUT UP, FAG!

HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT EITHER WAY
PSHH, FORGET ABOUT THAT LOSER
JUST LIKE YOU?

YEAH,
THE ONE WHO MURAI AND HER FRIENDS BULLIED AROUND

KIRIE!
HEY,
WHAT A DORK
I GUESS LOSERS LIKE THAT ARE DESTINED TO SCREW UP SOMEHOW...
HE WAS ALWAYS A SPEEDY LITTLE FUCKER,
BUT I GUESS HIS LUCK RAN OUT.
THEY STILL CAN'T FIND KAKO, HUH?
WHAT'S UP?
HEY, OVER HERE!!
UH.. I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO...

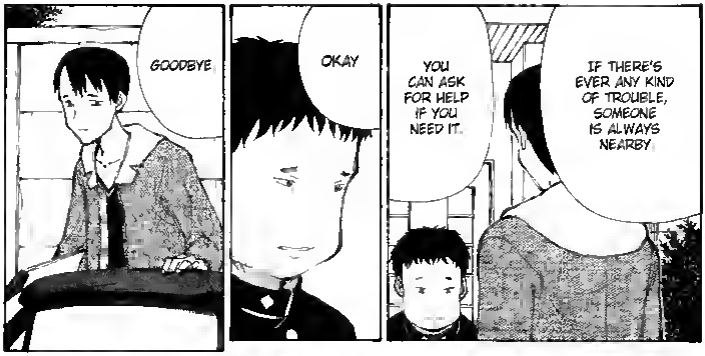
YOU ALWAYS WANTED A PET, RIGHT BABY?
JUST IGNORE THAT DUMBASS TEACHER.
I'LL KICK HIS ASS FOR YOU.
I JUST COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM
SORRY I'M LATE
C'MON, YOU SAID YOU WANTED A PET PIG AFTER THAT MOVIE.
NO WAY, HE LOOKS LIKE A GROSS FREAK
YOU CAN GIVE HIM ANY ORDERS YOU WANT.
THIS HERE'S MY LITTLE PET.
NOT A DISGUSTING SLOB.
I WANTED A CUTE LITTLE PIGLET
NO, WHAT I SAID WAS,
GO ON, KIRIE, RUN AROUND AND OINK A BIT.
WHAT?

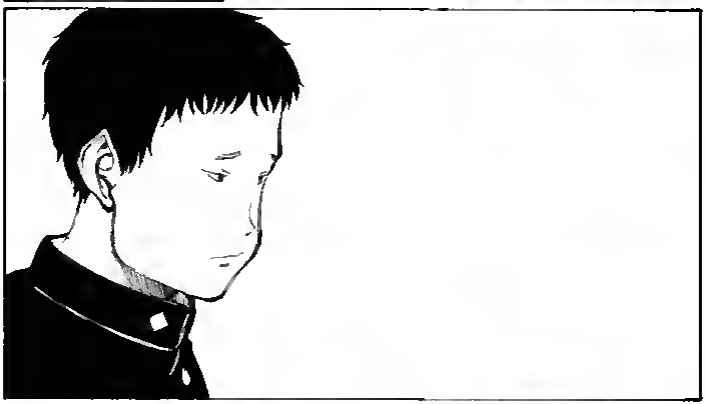
SEE? HE'S NOT A PIG. HE'S A LARD-ASS IDIOT.
I.. I CAN'T...
7
バシッ
NOW RUN IN CIRCLES!!
ボコ
YOU'RE TAKIN' ORDERS FROM ME FROM NOW ON!!

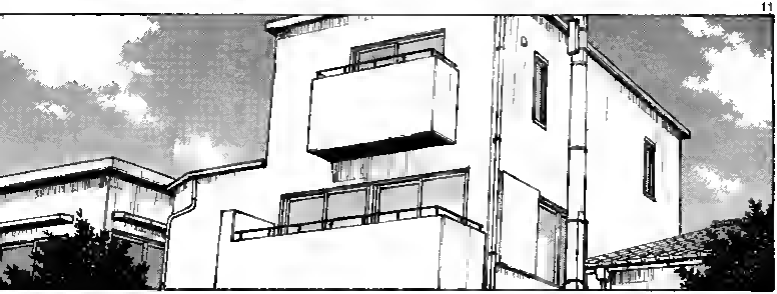
YOSUKE!!
3
ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS?
I'M YOSUKE'S AUNT.
THANKS FOR KEEPING MY LITTLE NEPHEW COMPANY.
I'M ALSO A POLICE OFFICER, SO IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, JUST ASK.

OH... YEAH
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP, YOSUKE.
オ
オ
IT'S OKAY
I'M USED TO IT
HOPEFULLY THIS WON'T CAUSE MORE TROUBLE WITH THEM.
WAS I BUTTING IN WHERE I SHOULDN'T HAVE?
TH... THANK YOU

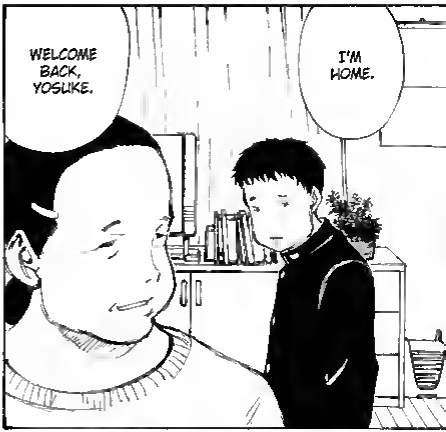
KIRIE,
THANK YOU AGAIN...


GOODBYE.
OKAY
YOU CAN ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED IT.
IF THERE'S EVER ANY KIND OF TROUBLE, SOMEONE IS ALWAYS NEARBY.

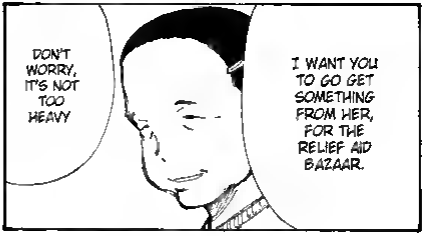


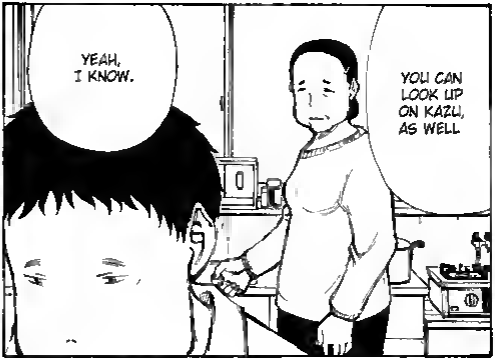


SURE THING.
COULD YOU GO AND VISIT AUNT TAMAKO IN A BIT?
WHAT FOR?


WELCOME BACK, YOSUKE.
I'M HOME.

OKAY.


DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT TOO HEAVY
I WANT YOU TO GO GET SOMETHING FROM HER, FOR THE RELIEF AID BAZAAR.


YEAH, I KNOW.
YOU CAN LOOK UP ON KAZU, AS WELL

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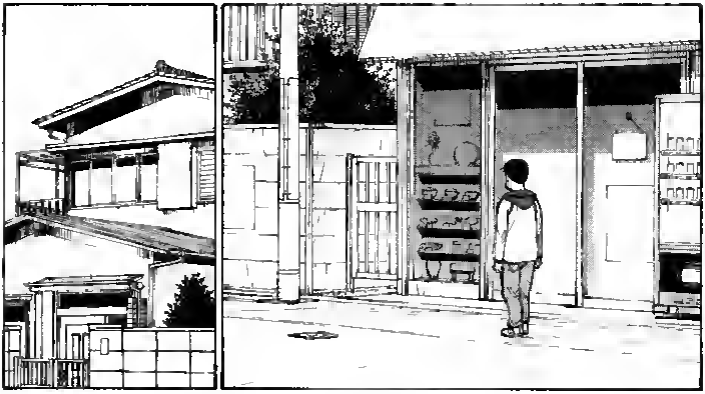
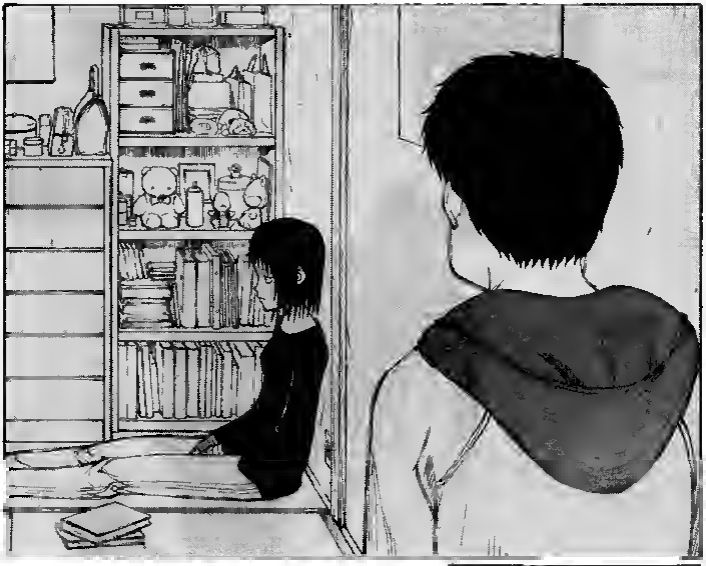
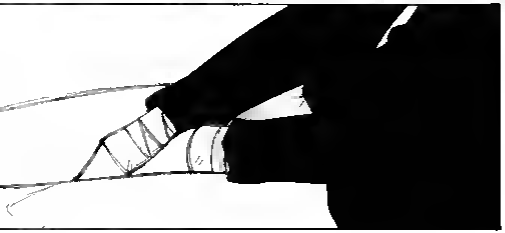


GOOD AFTER-NOON.
I'M HERE FOR THE BAZAAR THINGS
THANK YOU, DEAR.
KAZUKO'S STILL NOT FEELING WELL.
CAN YOU GO AND SAY HELLO, YOSUKE?

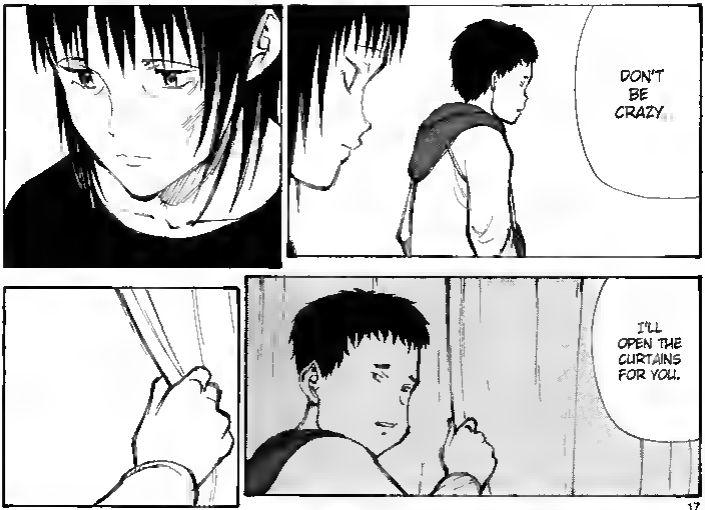
KAZU,
CAN I COME IN?
I'M COMING IN.



DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO YOURSELF AGAIN?



HAVE YOU?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EATING,
KILL ME...
YOSUKE...


DON'T BE CRAZY.
I'LL OPEN THE CURTAINS FOR YOU.

HAD STEPPED ON ME, INSTEAD...
IF ONLY THAT MONSTER...
ALL THOSE OTHER PEOPLE
BUT IT KILLED
THEN IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DIE, YET.

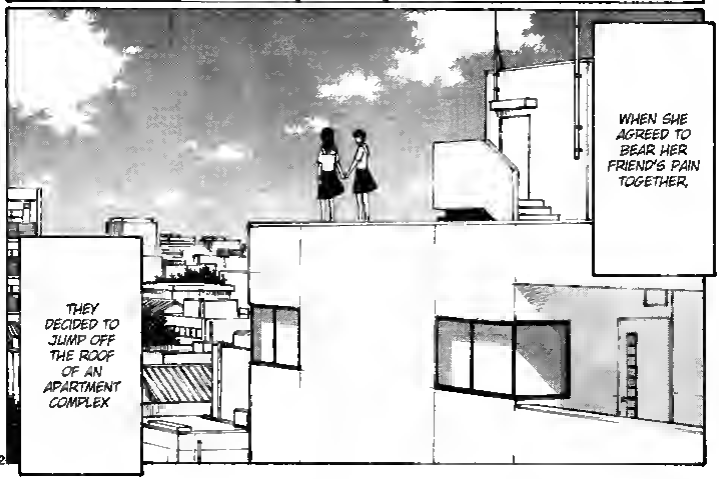
YOSUKE?
WHY ARE YOU ALIVE,
YOU ALWAYS THINK SOMETHING GOOD IS GONNA HAPPEN.
ARE YOU STILL HOPING FOR SOMETHING OUT OF LIFE?
ALL YOU'VE EVER FELT IS PAIN
THERE'S NOTHING WORTH LIVING FOR.
BUT I'M NOT IMPORTANT ANYMORE.
IN FACT, IT'S THE OPPOSITE
NO I DON'T.

I'M GOING TO GET SOME FOOD FOR YOU
PLEASE EAT IT...
I'M JUST GOING TO THROW IT UP...
IF ONLY
I'D DIED THEN...

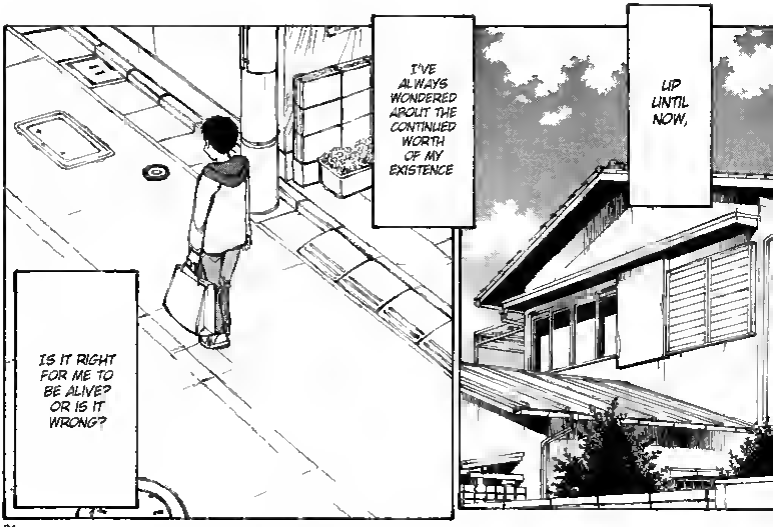
KAZU ..
KAZUKO MOTO-YAMA,
MY COUSIN FOUR YEARS OLDER THAN ME
WAS A BEAUTIFUL PERSON... I THINK
AN OUTGOING, CHEERFUL GIRL WHO EXUDED JOIE DE VIVRE WITH HER ENTIRE PERSON...
A CARING KINDHEARTED GIRL

I MANAGED TO MAKE IT THROUGH LIFE
BECAUSE OF KAZU'S HELP.
WHEN SHE FOUND PEOPLE PICKING ON ME,
SHE WOULD SAVE ME FROM THEM.

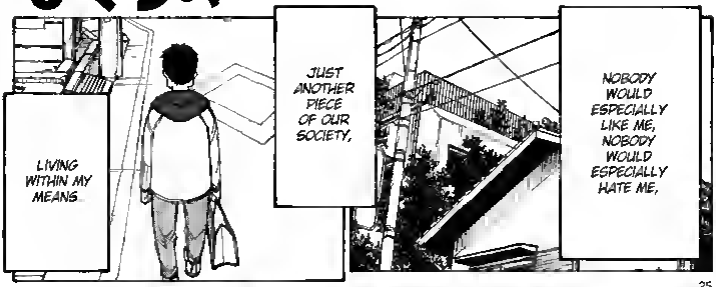
KAZU CHANGED WHEN SHE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.

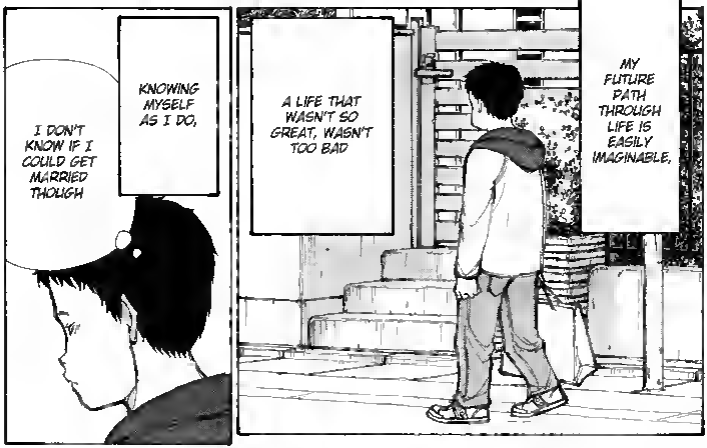

WHEN SHE AGREED TO BEAR HER FRIEND'S PAIN TOGETHER,
THEY DECIDED TO JUMP OFF THE ROOF OF AN APARTMENT COMPLEX

SHE WAS LEFT ALONE AND ALIVE ON TOP OF THE ROOF.
BUT, KAZU COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT
AFTER THAT, SHE COULDN'T LIVE, AND SHE COULDN'T DIE
NOBODY UNDERSTANDS...
NOBODY...


I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THE CONTINUED WORTH OF MY EXISTENCE
UP UNTIL NOW,
IS IT RIGHT FOR ME TO BE ALIVE? OR IS IT WRONG?

I'M NOT BOTHERING ANYONE BEING HERE. BUT I WOULDN'T BOTHER THEM IF I WASN'T, EITHER
I COULD BE HERE, I COULD NOT.
MY LIFE ITSELF IS AMBIVALENT.
I COULD PROBABLY GO THROUGH SCHOOL JUST LIKE THIS,
AND GET A CAREER


LIVING WITHIN MY MEANS.
JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF OUR SOCIETY,
NOBODY WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE ME, NOBODY WOULD ESPECIALLY HATE ME,


I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD GET MARRIED THOUGH
KNOWING MYSELF AS I DO,
A LIFE THAT WASN'T SO GREAT, WASN'T TOO BAD
MY FUTURE PATH THROUGH LIFE IS EASILY IMAGINABLE,

I DON'T REALLY CARE.
FOR MY FUTURE
I FELT NEITHER HOPE, NOR DESPAIR,

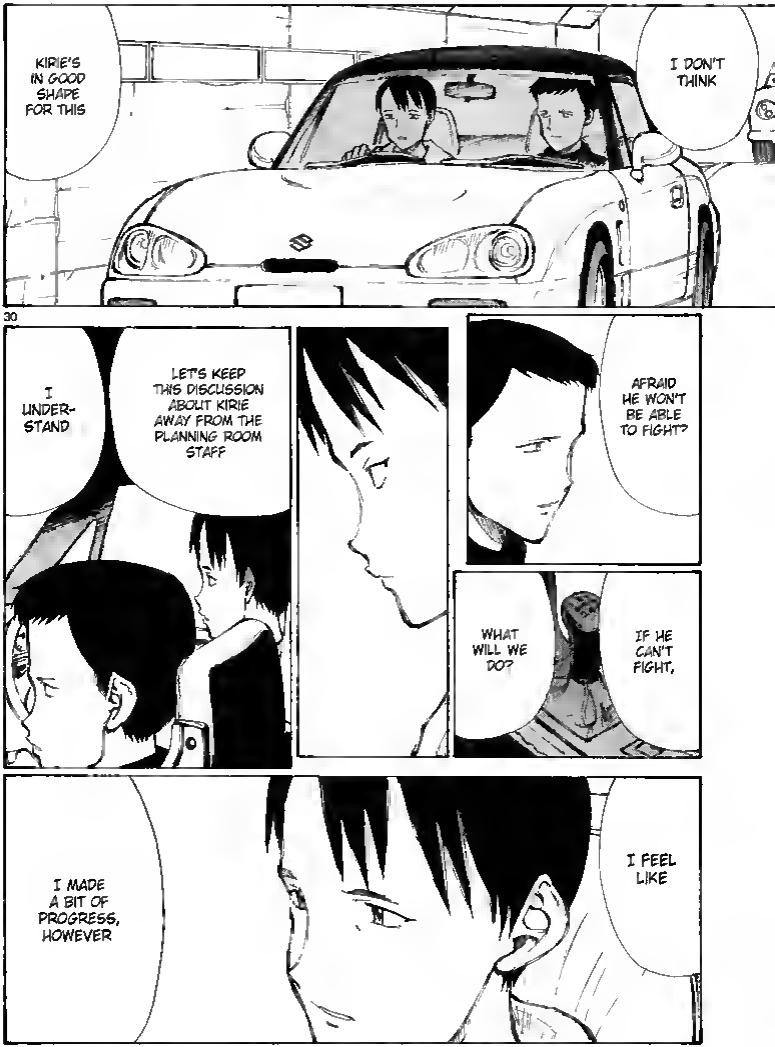
MAYBE KAKO WAS RIGHT I'M JUST DENSE
I DIDN'T REALLY GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT
SO WHEN I CROSSED PATHS WITH ZEARTH,
AND WAS PROMISED A SUDDEN DEATH IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
26
LIVING ONLY TO DIE
LIVING LIKE YOU'RE DEAD,
DYING FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
FOR SOMEONE WHO CONSIDERED HIS EXISTENTIAL WORTH SO OFTEN,
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A BAD DEAL TO ME.

BUT,
SOME OF MY FEARS CAME TRUE
THE ENEMY MONSTERS HAD PEOPLE INSIDE, TOO.

OUR ENEMIES ARE OTHER EARTHS.
ENEMIES?

ANOTHER US
ANOTHER EARTH
IS OUR EARTH SO IMPORTANT,
ARE THEY OUR ENEMIES?
Sell Your Car For Money
Finance
TO PROLONG OUR OWN EXISTENCE?
THAT WE SHOULD SACRIFICE THEM,
ME...
KILL...

KAZU COULD DIE...
IF I LOSE IN BATTLE,
VO ILLEGAL DUMPING!


KIRIE'S IN GOOD SHAPE FOR THIS
I DON'T THINK
30
I UNDER-STAND
LET'S KEEP THIS DISCUSSION ABOUT KIRIE AWAY FROM THE PLANNING ROOM STAFF
AFRAID HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT?
WHAT WILL WE DO?
IF HE CAN'T FIGHT,
I MADE A BIT OF PROGRESS, HOWEVER
I FEEL LIKE

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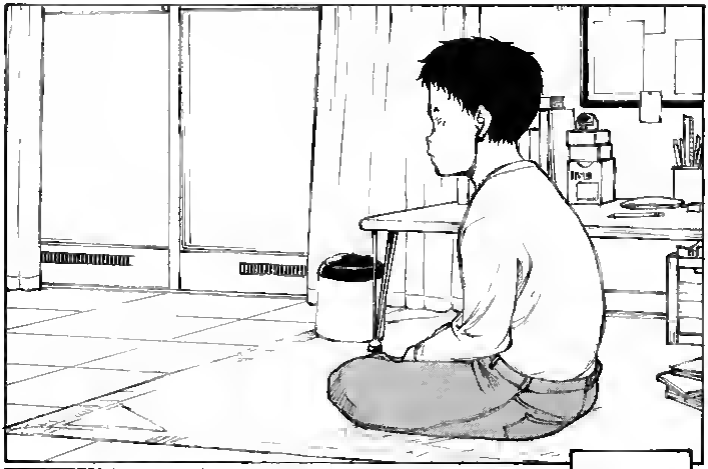

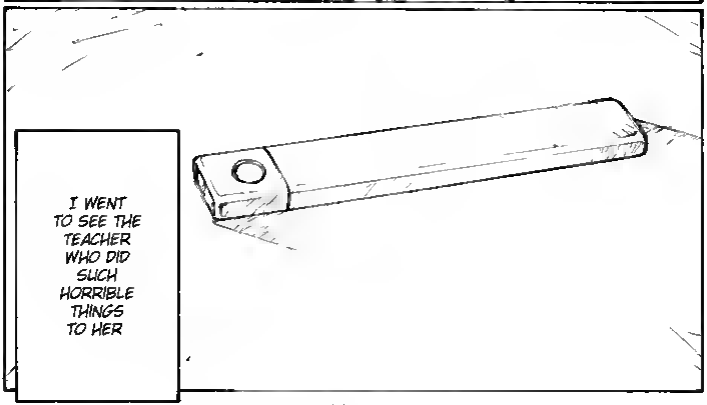

CHAPTER 29/END